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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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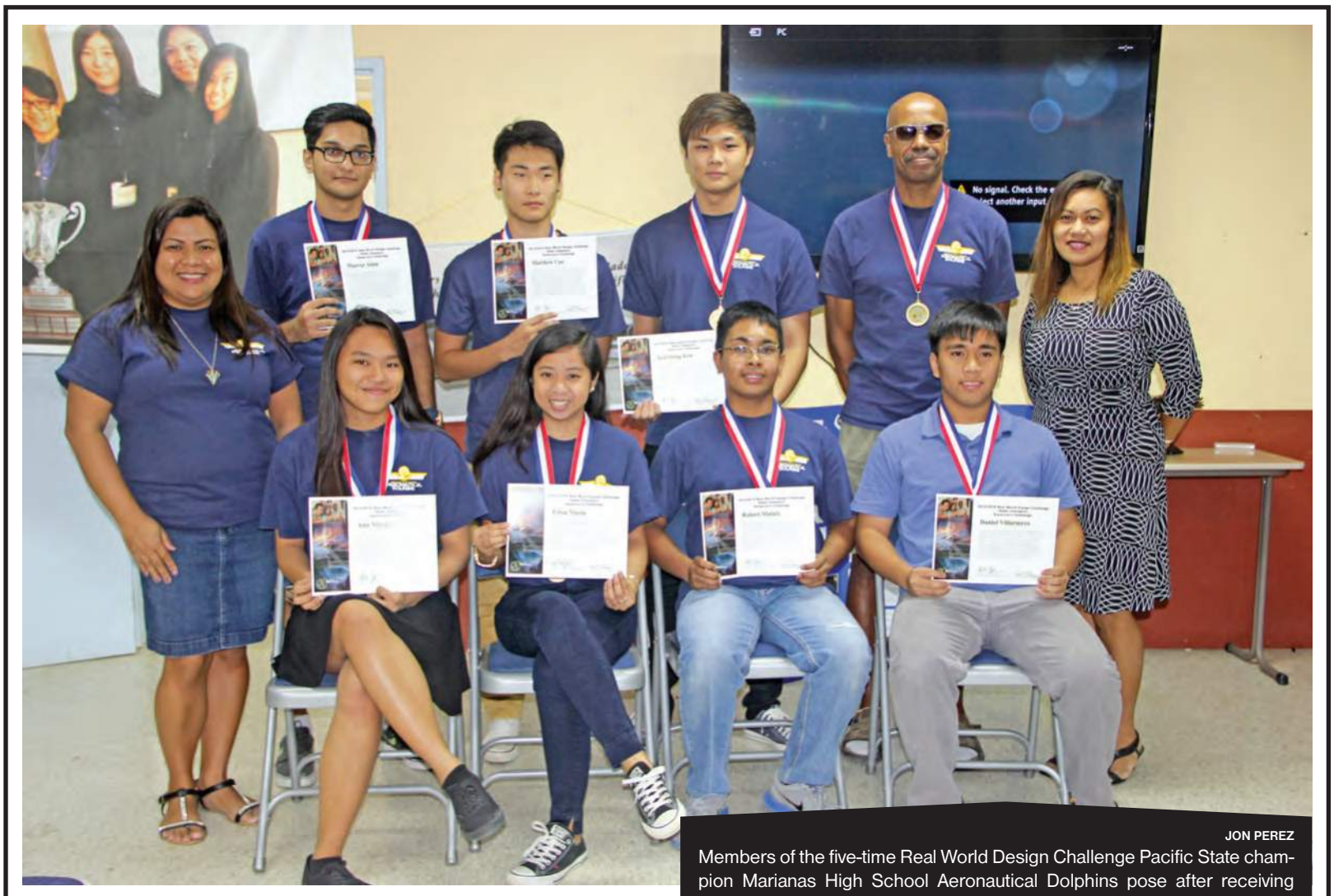
House: Torres veto of casino amendments 'unconstitutional'



JON PEREZ

Members of the five-time Real World Design Challenge Pacific State champion Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins pose after receiving their medals and certificates from RWDC Real World WDC state coordinator Jennifer Cubangbang, standing left, and MHS vice principal Karen Alla, standing right.

Aeronautical Dolphins tweaking design

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins are making slight changes on the design of their entry to the Real World Design Challenge national finals set from April 21 to 23 in Washington, D.C. They aim to leave Saipan in the third week of April and arrive on the 20th.

Project manager Ann Margaret Norcio said they are working doubly hard in order to finish the final design that they would present against the other state champions.

"We're working during recess and until around 6pm after school. We're working on everything and now updating the aircraft design," said Norcio, who together with the other members of the team and coach John Raulerson received their certificates and medals from RWDC state coordinator Jennifer Cubangbang yesterday at the MHS Counseling Office.

See DESIGN on Page 4

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House majority bloc flirted yesterday with an override of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' actions last year on a bill that would have provided additional tax relief to the Saipan casino and allowed lawmakers to block casino regulators from revoking the casino's license if found non-compliant.

During discussion yesterday, lawmakers—led by House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan)—pulled back from the dead a casino amendment bill that had wrought controversy in both upper and lower houses late last year before it reached Torres'

Demapan

See HOUSE on Page 4

PAL flight to benefit medical referral, tourism

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The twice weekly direct flights of the Philippine Airlines from Manila to Saipan will have a positive impact on the medical referrals program of the CNMI and, to a certain extent, on tourism as well.

According to the director of Medi-

See PAL on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Does the Citizenship Clause entitle persons born in American Samoa, a U.S. territory for more than a century, to birthright citizenship?

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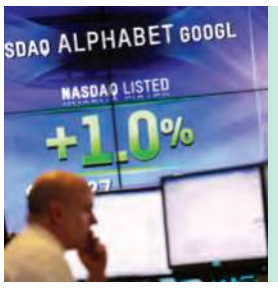

BUSINESS

Alphabet now comes before Apple atop the list of the world's most valuable companies.

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Local

Alter City hints at temporary casino on Tinian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DENNIS B. CHAN
Alter City Group and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission pose for a photo after a public hearing last Friday, in which the Tinian casino investors were approved a casino operator's license.

An Alter City Group executive hinted at exploring the option of a temporary or live-training casino facility, when sought for a reaction fresh off the approval of their casino operator's license last Friday.

The temporary casino option immediately draws comparison to Saipan casino's Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s controversial live-gaming training facility in the T-Galleria mall.

As there are no Tinian gaming regulations that speak to this issue, the Tinian Gaming Act will need amendment, *Saipan Tribune* learned. The Gaming Act is specific about the requirement of a casino operating in a hotel-casino complex, and having a certain number of hotel rooms. It is also specific that gaming activities be limited to the approved area of a casino.

Sought for his thoughts after the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission approved their casino operator's license—that came stapled with 18 conditions—managing director Ken Lin noted that they've gone through such a process before.

"When we got the land [lease], you asked me how I feel, when we got the [coastal resource management permit], you asked me how I feel. I think it is the same thing."

"It's just—we are happy for a couple of hours—and then the work starts," he added.

Lin said that even if they do not have the casino yet, it is important to start doing business because "it's a commitment for us to show the community that we are here to stay."

"We won't just have a piece of paper living in our drawers for the next few days. We want to get that going. Hopefully, we can use that to explore the options—such as a temporary casino or the training center here on Tinian—and get that industry back again."

Lin also welcomed the investigation fee of $50,000 that the commission handed them on Friday, on top of other investigation fees that they have already paid.

He said they also have put down $500,000 for the annual license fee, after being approved on Friday, and were excited and "more than confident" to meet the 18 conditions on their license.

"The key" for a casino is "transparency," he said.

Still, when prodded, Lin would not compare themselves to Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and its previous casino operators.

"We are different. I think we will be judged [differently] by the people," Lin said.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said he looks forward to ACG's plans progressing, so the people of Tinian would benefit from their investment.

"This gets the ball rolling," San Nicolas said.

"This is just a conditional license. This is a first step for them to get their final license," commission chair Esther Barr also said. "We feel confident" with the conditions set.

"Hopefully, we'll see the groundbreaking in three years."

When asked, Barr disclosed they have about two more casino applicants pending.

Barr said Tinian Entertainment Company—the new owners of the Tinian Dynasty—has also put in a casino application. "We are in the process of investigation now."

Barr also told *Saipan Tribune* that a Donald Hofschneider was the commission's acting executive director, after the commission terminated former executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita's contract two weeks ago.

Conditions

Follows is a summary of several of the conditions attached to ACG's license:

■ No director, shareholders, investors, representative, designee, or agent of ACG Inc. will have any direct or indirect involvement in day-to-day management or decision-making process of the casino or exercise any influence over the day to day management of the casino operations unless first license as casino operator by the commission.

■ ACG Inc. must undergo formal training by qualified and casino management by approved company by gaming commission prior to seeking casino operator license.

■ If not licensed to operate, ACG shall execute a casino management agreement with an experienced casino operator to be approved by commission, who has a proven track record of gaming and regulatory compliance with U.S. code. Management team must be identified and reported to commission no later than nine months before anticipated opening of the casino to conduct investigation.

■ ACG must identify and submit application forms and investigation fees for all business entities and persons who will be involved in management of casino operations, no less than 180 days prior to the commencement of the operation of the casino.

■ Upon commencement of operation of the casino, ACG must organize and maintain a compliance committee of at least one independent member who oversees investments into the casino operations and reveal source of funds and proposed investors, committee will monitor all asset and regulatory compliance of ACG and its affiliates. ACG shall submit a compliance committee plans to the executive director for proposal at least 90 days prior to the casino operation.

■ ACG or its designated casino operator must submit a floor plan of the casino, diagram…and other system, catwalk or alternative security system to commission for approval, no less than 180 days prior to opening of casino.

■ ACG or designee must submit a drawing of all chips and tokens to the commission for approval no less than 120 days prior to casino. ACG shall not purchase chips or cards from manufactured distributor other than approved by the commission.

■ ACG or designee shall submit a system of internal controls for approval, no later than 120 days prior to commencement of operations.

■ ACG shall always be in compliance with all requirements in Tinian gaming act and other Commonwealth and federal laws.

■ ACG must submit to the commission division of enforcement all current financial statements within 120 days following the issuance of casino operator's license. Within 120 days, ACG must to the satisfaction of the executive director by Jan. 4 2016, shall submit to the commission evidence of verifiable source to funds used to the date as proposed for the development of operations to the casino, ACG shall provide request documents to support the wealth of Ken Leong and Ken Lin. Failure to adequately respond to this request shall result in suspension the commission's approval of the ACG until such time as adequate documentation.

■ ACG must organize a compliance committee with at least one independent member to initially oversee investment in the project and reveal source of funds and proposed investors.

■ Upon receiving license, ACG shall deposit for investigative purposes the amount of $50,000. These funds will be in the form of cash or cash equivalent.

■ Chair Ken Leong and managing director Ken Lin must be found suitable as shareholders of ACG and be qualified to the standards of the casino act.

CLUB C
CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT
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WEDNESDAY
Ladies Night & Got More Beer?
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Margarita - $5.00
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Torres meets with Fiji president, US ambassador

» CNMI governor also talks to island's power authority officials

SUVA, Fiji—In his first off-island state visit to a foreign country, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, legislators, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board members traveled to Fiji on a two-pronged mission over the past weekend. The first objective was to re-affirm the historical friendship between the peoples of the Commonwealth and the Republic of Fiji.

During the trip, Torres paid a courtesy visit to Fiji President George Konrote and U.S. Ambassador Judith B. Cefkin (Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu). Torres expressed the CNMI's commitment to regional initiatives for the improvement of living standards, trade opportunities, and public health for the people of the Pacific.

The second mission was to meet with the Fiji Electric Authority as part of the Pacific Power Authority, whose mission is to improve the quality of utility services and electrical power in the region through cooperative efforts among island utilities, the private sector, and international donors.

As a member of the PPA, the CNMI joins other regional islands and nations to pool their resources and expertise for the common benefits to the islands, gain international representation, and improve access to international power sector assistance programs. It was under this agreement that utility personnel from Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Guam were mobilized to assist the island of Saipan after Typhoon Soudelor.

The Fiji Electric Authority's mission is to provide clean and affordable energy solutions for the Fijian people with at least 90 percent of the energy requirements coming through renewable sources by 2025. This goal is nearly the same mission the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has set out for the Northern Mariana Islands.

While in Fiji, Torres will also be reaching out to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community of which the CNMI holds memberships to renew the CNMI's participation.

The mission was funded by the Office of the Governor at the invitation of the Fijian Electric Authority with official courtesies extended by the Government of Fiji and the U.S. Embassy to Fiji.

Torres will return to Saipan on Thursday. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rep. Francis S. Taimanao, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Joe Torres, Pernix Group president and CEO Nidal Z. Zayed, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Fijian Holdings Limited CEO Nouzab Fareed, Fijian Holdings Ltd. Group chair Iowane Naiveli, and Sen. Sixto Igisomar pose for a group photo after meeting in Suva, Fiji.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-003

APPLICATION OF ANTI-SKID AT DANDAN ROAD BETWEEN THE LOOP OF KAMMA PLACE, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Application of Anti-Skid at Dandan Road between the Loop of Kamma Place, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 27, 2016** at Departmnet of Public works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Deaprtment of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capital Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 12, 2016**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 26, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the proepective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-16-IFB-003". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 9, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 9, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 9, 2016** and must be received no later than **March 18, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, March 21, 2016. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on March 9, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Thirty (30) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to a decrease of the average fuel price greater than the approved differential, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 22.5%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has decreased from $0.12076 per kWh to $0.09359 per kWh effective February 1, 2016.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3	Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate) Per kWh — all usage	$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 02/01/16)	$ 0.09359	$ 0.09359	$ 0.09359	$ 0.09359
Previous FAC (01/01/16 - 01/31/16)	$ 0.12076	$ 0.12076	$ 0.12076	$ 0.12076

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.

Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.

Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Updated February 2016

Beautify CNMI to plant commemorative tree tomorrow

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Beautify CNMI will have a tree planting project tomorrow, Feb. 4, as one of their first projects as the group has just been revived.

According to one of Beautify CNMI's founder, Angelo Villagomez, the tree planting will take place near the Oleai Beach Bar at 5pm.

The native tree that will be planted will commemorate the first decade of Beautify CNMI and kick off a second decade of community service. Interested members of the public are invited to attend.

Beautify CNMI, a diverse group of like-minded individuals whose common ground is to take care of the environment, was established in 2006.

They were also responsible for some of the several hundreds of flame trees around the island, most of which are now gone because of the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

"We've planted several hundred flame trees along Beach Road also in Koblerville and several other places around the island," Villagomez said.

He also credited those who came first to plant the trees that have become a trademark and identity of the CNMI.

"The flame trees by the beach were actually started many, many years ago, in the '60s, '70s," Villagomez said, "Somebody has always stepped up and planted flame trees but it's actually something that's existed for 30 years."

Villagomez said that while it is sad that those trees were gone, it is our responsibility to beautify the CNMI again.

"They were blown away. It's really sad how much this island lost from the typhoon. People lost their homes, and we lost one of the naturally beauty. But as caretakers of this island, it's our responsibility to fix up that which was broken," Villagomez said.

DESIGN

From Page 1

The team—composed of marketing specialist Edna Nisola, project mathematician Masrur Alam, simulations engineer Jun Young Kim, mission planner Matthew Cao, aircraft design engineer Robert Malate, and systems planner Daniel Villarmero—had only two months left to finalize everything.

"Talk about time pressure. Compared to last year where we had six months to prepare. We're working on how the aircraft can do more, where it can cover two fields aside from one. It would lessen the time but double the productivity," said Norcio.

She added that last year their design was among the top two that was picked by the organizers to have a model displayed in Washington. "It would really be cool to one day see our design working in the real world."

The Aeronautical Dolphins will again represent the Pacific States—American Samoa, the CNMI and Guam—for the fifth straight year after winning the 2016 RWDC Pacific State Championship last Jan. 8 since joining in 2012.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, in an email sent to Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), said that they approved to shoulder the $10,000 needed to support the travel costs of the team. The fund will come from the student competition program through the consolidated grant.

Their entry, called the Cruiser, is a small and unmanned aircraft that uses current technology to perform moisture detection on crops would be up against other state winners in the nationals.

RWDC is an annual competition for high school students, grades 9 to 12, where they work on real world engineering challenges. The winning team earns a $50,000 scholarship from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

HOUSE

From Page 1

desk in November.

In clear defense of its own powers, House leaders rallied on the grounds that Torres had no authority to line-item veto the bill.

In early December, then House speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero asked House counsel John Cool for a legal opinion on Torres' actions. The lawyer got back to him on Dec. 28, with a memo essentially declaring Torres' line-item vetoes inappropriate, arguing that bill was not an appropriations bill—as Torres deemed it—and therefore outside the mark of the governor's veto pen.

In reviewing the bill, Torres had vetoed three concerns: provisions to allow a legislative veto over a potential casino license revocation; mandate that casino employees be declared essential in case of austerity or government shutdown; and allow tax credits for the Saipan casino if they passed a certain tax threshold. However, some House leaders believe two provisions—to provide for a tax relief for the casino and provide legislative oversight in such an event that regulators chose to revoke a non-compliant Best Sunshine International, Ltd.—were policy calls that should be made by their body.

"[Torres] cannot pass the bill and veto it at the same time," said Demapan during session yesterday. "This is something we can't ignore."

Demapan and Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) laid out three options for the House yesterday; to override the law; pose the issue as a certified question to the Superior Court; or allow law review commission to issue its position.

The recent law poses "ramifications for future administrations," said Sablan. "We just can't sit back and can't do anything about it," because it would set "precedence for future administrations" on how it can treat bills that come out of the Legislature. The bill "should not be subject to the constitutional authority for line item veto," Sablan said.

In reading from Cool's opinion, Deleon Guerrero said the three vetoed items in contest were "not appropriation provisions, they were regulatory provisions." He said—if the bill was indeed an appropriations bill—then the $3 million earmarked to Saipan gaming regulators to fund their office and staff would lapse at the end of the fiscal year. "That was not the intent" of the bill, Deleon Guerrero said, noting that the earmark was intended to be provided on annual basis. "This thing has to be clarified," he said.

On the option to override the bill, Sablan noted that the Senate has not scheduled a session until after the deadline for override—Feb. 4—which meant that an override would be moot since it needs the action of both houses.

Still, Sablan said the matter must be taken seriously. "We have a difference of opinion," he said.

Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he was in communication with the law commission and was told that their counsel issuing an opinion that was supposed to be given on Monday. "They want to issue an opinion," Guerrero said.

Cool argued that if the bill were an appropriations bill then it would not be codified. "We would need to re-enact" it's sub provisions, he said.

An appropriation bill should be limited to the subject of appropriations, Cool said, and the issue at hand was "very appropriate subject" for a certified question in Superior Court. "…Because it involves a dispute between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch" and "reviewing the governor's authority to exercise line-item vetoes," Cool said.

Too little, too late

Some lawmakers later called the discussion a waste of time, as the hour-long tease of an override amounted to a decision to send a letter to the law review commission to raise the issue.

The item discussed was also not originally scheduled on the day's session but pulled from an official communication item from Torres months ago.

Some minority block lawmakers threw some wrenches into the discussion, asking why the issue had not been raised in the handful of sessions they held over the last two months.

"We are now in February," Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan) said. In response to these concerns, Demapan pointed to the untimely passing of the late governor Eloy S. Inos. If a certified question was poised and the law rendered "null and avoid," Attao asked, would the casino commission have to pay back what they've been paid already?" "[The bill] never became law," Attao said.

Cool, though, stated that the commission employees would not be affected. He said "they are covered" and this would not be problem since the governor had no authority to veto the bill's provisions. The bill "would have become law without the governor's signature assuming actions violate the Constitution," said Cool, referring to the 40-day window for Executive Branch action.

Frustrated with the debate itself, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said the real issue was "due diligence." The casino amendment issue has been around since last June, he pointed out, a substitute bill was pushed on the floor during an "emergency session" in August and then "fast tracked," with no committee report, and "sailed smoothly" to the Senate. Senators passed the bill after some amendments to satisfy public health official's concerns, and then recalled the bill after Attorney General Edward Manibusan sounded his concerns about provisions he thought would give undue powers to casino regulators.

He said if an override were pressed to the Senate, it would be "a very slippery slope." "This is symptomatic of a rushed casino bill," Tebuteb later told reporters.

But Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero said past House or Senate action was not the question. "It is the governor's action." "If we keep quiet… what's to prevent a governor in the future to veto a non-appropriations bill?" Deleon Guerrero asked.

"If [an override] simply sends a message that this is not right at least it sends a point," Deleon Guerrero said.

He stressed the need to raise the issue "so we do not turn a blind eye."

Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) noted Cool's opinion was made over a month ago—Dec. 28—and asked that information with the minority bloc be shared despite their divisions. On Torres' line-item vetoes, Propst said, "I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing."

PAL

From Page 1

cal Referral Services Ronald Sablan, the direct flights to Manila—where a significant number of cases are being sent—will help in many ways.

"That flight will be helping us a lot. Not only on patients' convenience but also the cost mainly because we don't have to charter flights from Saipan to Guam now which is very costly," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

For fiscal year 2014, Medical Referral spent $6.374 million for about 784 cases. Last fiscal year, there were 763 cases for which they spent $6.689 million.

While most of the cases are still being sent to Guam, about 33 to 37 percent were sent to the Philippines.

In FY 2014 and 2015, 260 and 282 cases were sent to the Philippines, respectively.

The Medical Referral Services coordinates with four of the major hospitals in the said country namely St. Luke's Medical Center, Medical City, Makati Medical Center, and Asian Hospital.

The direct flight will also eliminate the need for transferring patients from one plane to another to get to Manila.

"We put the patients on a real disadvantage at the same time risk possible injury when we transfer them from one flight to another," Sablan said.

"Just having that direct flight will be a great help for our patients," he added.

Sablan said the advantage that the PAL flights will be bringing in is that it will make the medical trips "shorter, easier, more convenient, and less costly."

PAL also agreed to provide stretcher services as well as in-flight oxygen, which are "a plus," according to Sablan.

Sablan said they have been waiting for airlines to consider this route and appreciate PAL's move.

"We've been praying for some airlines to come in and provide direct flight services outside of the CNMI," Sablan said.

"I really extend my appreciation for PAL to consider this flight. I know that everything is based on the bottom line, and hopefully this will prove to be true for them and continue this service," he added.

Tourism

The Marianas Visitors Authority is also welcoming PAL's return to the region and is hoping to have an opportunity to increase traffic to the islands despite the limitation due to visa requirements.

"We welcome the return of Philippine Airlines to the CNMI. In addition to transporting Philippine nationals between countries and making medical referral-related travel more convenient and cost-efficient, we hope that there will be an opportunity to Increase leisure travel between our two countries and to link the CNMI to other countries via the Philippines' vast regional network," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said.

"Unfortunately, the Philippines is not an allowable country under the U.S. Visa Waiver Program and the Guam/CNMI Visa Waiver Program, so leisure tourist from the Philippines to the CNMI will require a U.S. visa, which may limit its growth potential," he added.

PAL will start their flights to Saipan on June 15. The new flights are on code share with PAL Express.

PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime J. Bautista noted fellow Filipinos' need for this service. "Saipan is home to thousands of Filipinos. Opening this new route will provide our *kababayans* that much-needed link to their homeland. On top of that, business and leisure travelers from Saipan now have the opportunity to experience PAL's brand of service that is uniquely Filipino," Bautista said.

PR1571 will depart Manila every Wednesday and Sunday at 9:20pm and will arrive on Saipan at 3:35am local time the following day.

PR1572 will depart Saipan every Thursday and Monday at 4:35am local time and will arrive in Manila at 6:45am.

PAL's General Sales Agent in the CNMI is Century Travel.

Notorious habitual offender gets 11 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Notorious habitual offender Ramon Cabrera Blas was slapped yesterday with an 11-year prison term for burglarizing an apartment complex in San Vicente and stealing a couple's jewelry, money, and other items.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Blas to the maximum of five years imprisonment for burglary, five years prison term for theft, six months for criminal trespass, and six months for disturbing the peace—a total of 11 years in prison.

Kim-Tenorio ordered the 57-year-old Blas to serve the prison term with no possibility of parole, early release, or weekend furlough.

The 11-year prison term will be consecutive to the three-year imprisonment that Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed on Blas last July for violating his probation.

It means that Blas will serve 11 years in addition to the three-year prison term that Wiseman had imposed.

Kim-Tenorio listed defendant's long criminal history and the leniency he received from past convictions.

In October 2015, a Superior Court jury found Blas guilty of burglary and theft. Kim-Tenorio also found the defendant guilty of criminal mischief and disturbing the peace.

In the government's recommendation, assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, counsel for the government, said sentencing the defendant to the maximum of 11 years with no possibility of parole, early release, or weekend furlough will prevent him from committing future crimes and prevent others from committing similar crimes, which will improve public safety by incapacitating repeat offenders.

Barcinas said Blas committed new crimes while on probation in 10 out of his 13 criminal convictions.

Barcinas said there is no other way to describe defendant's character rather than being a menace to society and must be incarcerated to protect the safety and prosperity of the community.

The prosecutor noted that since 1979 at the age of 20, Blas has been in and out of prison for various offenses and most of which are crimes against property and persons.

Blas has at least 18 criminal convictions, including the most serious being robbery.

Barcinas said Blas is still terrorizing the community with his criminal activities and poses a serious threat to the community with his continuous pattern of thefts and burglaries.

Barcinas said Blas has proved himself to be a poor candidate for probation and will not benefit from any rehabilitative tools, except incarceration.

She said the community must be protected from criminals like Blas, who has complete disregard for the laws of the CNMI and has complete disregard for the probation orders from the court; and therefore must retire at the Department of Corrections.

Barcinas said the crime of burglary has not only had a negative effect on the citizens of the Commonwealth, but also on the value of properties, the cost to operate businesses, and the economy.

In this case, Barcinas said, Blas stole $18,310 worth of jewelry from a woman, including a family heirloom that was passed on to her by her mother and her engagement ring given to her by her husband.

The prosecutor said the victim will never be able to recover any of her jewelry.

She said the couple is willing to waive restitution so Blas could be sentenced to the maximum allowable sentence of 11 years.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Blas, recommended a five-year sentence, with credit for time served.

Sato said statistically, it is an inefficient use of government resources to confine Blas in the Department of Corrections.

According to the prosecution, on Aug. 21, 2014, Blas burglarized the apartment unit of the couple and when told to leave, he refused.

Blas, smiling, told the woman not to be afraid, but this made her more afraid.

Blas only ran away after he heard the sound of the woman's husband's car pulling into the apartment.

Two months later or on Nov. 9, 2014, Blas returned to the unit and stole a laptop, several jewelry, Dior perfume, a Fendi purse, a Samsung cell phone, a drill, and cosmetics.

The couple found Blas inside their home.

The apartment complex is owned by retired judge Juan T. Lizama.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan was the officer in charge of the case.

Last June, Wiseman imposed a three-year prison term on Blas for violating his probation. The judge said Blas is a continuing menace to the community and should be incapacitated or isolated from society by remaining in prison for the allowable maximum term.

OPD: Sex offender still in jail despite completing term in March 2015

The Office of the Public Defender has filed an emergency motion for the immediate release from jail of sex offender Juan C. Taitano, who is still incarcerated allegedly despite completing his five-year prison term in March 2015.

Acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, opposed the motion, asserting that then-Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos, in his oral sentencing, imposed a 10-year prison term on Taitano.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho heard the motion on Friday and repeatedly listened to the audio recording during the sentencing. Camacho then placed the matter under advisement.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer filed the emergency motion on Thursday. Meyer said it is clear that the second half of Taitano's sentence is suspended.

Meyer said every day after March 7, 2015, Taitano is being illegally incarcerated.

At the hearing, chief public defender Douglas Hartig appeared as counsel for Taitano. Hartig said it is clear in the written order that the defendant is getting out after serving five years.

Hinds said it is the oral pronouncement that controls and not the written order.

Hinds then asked the court to listen to the 10-minute audio recording of the sentencing.

After the audio was played in court, Hartig said three times Inos stated that the defendant shall serve five years in prison and the second five years suspended. Hinds disagreed and stated that the defendant was convicted of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree involving two victims.

Camacho listened the audio again. The judge later announced that he is placing the matter under advisement.

Saipan Tribune's story about the sentencing showed that Inos imposed a five-year jail term without the possibility of parole.

The news article said Inos sentenced the then-44-year-old Taitano to 10 years in prison, all suspended except five years.

At the sentencing, attorney Peter Prestley appeared for the government. Then-chief public defender Adam Hardwicke served as counsel for Taitano.

According to the plea agreement, on March 6, 2010, Taitano, who was then 43, touched the private parts of the two girls. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Mariana Entertainment LLC

For immediate hiring
FULL OR PART-TIME POSITION

SLOT ATTENDANT
- Will Train.
- Responsible to proactively seek interaction with slot customer for purpose of building positive business relationships.
- Trouble shoot and assist guest with their slot machines issues and perform minor gaming machine malfunctions
- Reporting any machine operational or technical issues to appropriate technical support personal.
- Ability to accurately explain various game combinations payouts and jackpots

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with 12 months of previous successful work-related experience with Guest Services. Must be able to work various shifts, including evenings, weekends and holidays. Good command of verbal and written English, second language preferred; Chinese, Korean or Japanese.

BOOKKEEPER
- General office clerk needed. Light bookkeeping. Able to do general office work to assist manager and be familiar with QuickBooks. Responsible for daily, weekly and monthly sales reports. Report to accountant in preparation of various federal and government tax returns. Record daily account activities, maintain book of accounts.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Must be proficient in MS word, excel, QuickBooks system software. Knowledge in general accounting. Can manage and monitor receivables and payables. Must have a minimum of 12 months of previous successful work-related experience in accounting. College graduate or equivalent preferred. Good Command of verbal and written English. Must have own transportation.

Closing Date Monday, February 15, 2016.
Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to club88mholl@gmail.com or call 670-233-0888
Only Qualified U.S. applicant need apply.

Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP
is now accepting applications for experienced:

Triple J is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Hocog welcomes visiting team from American Red Cross

Michael Jordan, vice president of Humanitarian Services, Pacific Division, of the American Red Cross along with Coralie Chun Matayoshi, Esq., CEO, and Jennifer L. Dotson, chief development officer of the Hawaii Red Cross Chapter, paid a courtesy visit to acting governor Victor B. Hocog.

The visit was part of the delegation's mission to follow up on areas that recently experienced disasters that the ARC played a major role in the recovery efforts. "I am impressed by the resiliency of your people," said Matayoshi expressing her sentiments to Hocog of the community's efforts in recovering from the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

"Our fundraising efforts and donations from generous benefactors are really the driving force that helped the NMI Chapter provide the services after the typhoon. We will continue to provide those types of assistance because of such support," added John Hirsch, executive director for the Red Cross NMI Chapter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, James Deleon Guerrero, special assistant for Homeland Security; Vicky Villagomez, Governor's authorized representative; Michael Jordan, vice president, Pacific Division-Humanitarian Services; Coralie Chun Matayoshi, Esq., chief executive officer; acting governor Victor Hocog; Jennifer L. Dotson, chief development officer; John Hirsch, executive director, NMI Chapter; Jenny Hegland, director-CNMI CARE; Paul Camacho; Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, chairwoman Red Cross-NMI Chapter Board.

Hocog expressed the CNMI's appreciation to Jordan and the team for their visit and the level of support from the ARC.

"Thank you very much. During our time of need, the local chapter along with the support from the off-island ARC members gave us hope that we were not alone. It would have been a more difficult recovery had ARC was not there with us. Thank you for this visit and thank you for the support," he said. ***(PR)***

DOI approves additional $5M for CUC projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of the Interior Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina has informed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that the CNMI government's request for additional $5 million in funding for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s projects has been approved.

In a letter to Torres last Friday, Kia'aina said they appreciate the CNMI's submission of the Capital Improvement Projects Spending Plan for fiscal year 2016, totaling $9,606,000.

Kia'aina said included in the CIP Plan is additional funding for CUC Engineering and Environmental Management Company projects, including the oil pipeline, tank cleanout, inspection and repair project, and construction management.

Assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, counsel for the CNMI government, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday about DOI's approval of the $5 million funding for CUC projects.

Sablan said pursuant to the court's final order, the government must deposit $5 million into the court's registry or file a notice with the court of DOI's authorization to proceed for funding Stipulated Order 2 Projects (SO2) by Feb. 1, 2016.

Sablan said the government has not received the authorization to proceed.

However, the lawyer said, on Friday DOI issued a grant award in the amount of $5 million for SO2 Projects.

She said the corresponding authorizations to proceed are forthcoming, and the funds will be available for SO2 Projects upon the issuance of those ATPs.

The CNMI, CUC, and the U.S. government filed yesterday a stipulation to extend the deadline to file notice of ATP to Feb. 29, 2016.

The parties, through their respective counsels, said despite their diligent efforts, CNMI failed to obtain the corresponding ATP by Monday, Feb. 1.

The parties said they will continue to work cooperatively to meet the extended deadline.

Last Nov. 13, the government submitted an amended FiscalYear 2016 Commonwealth Improvement Projects spending plan to DOI's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) to include the $5 million funding requirement for Stipulated Order 2 (SO2) projects.

Sablan said the $5 million FY 2016 grant funds will be used for cleanup, inspection and repair of Tank 103 ($730,614), CUC pipeline construction ($3,887,161), and construction management by Engineering Environmental Management Company (382,225).

The SO2 projects are decommissioning of the existing CUC pipeline and smart pigging of the new CUC pipeline ($720,729); waste management for Power Plants 1 and 2 on Saipan and Rota power plant ($2,389,626); engineering and design of facility drainage improvements for Power Plants 1 and 2 ($896,773); soil cleanup for Power Plant 1 ($607,324), and SO2 construction management by EEMC ($365,118).

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-044

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TWIN ENGINES THE DFW 27' BOSTON WHALER CHALLENGER BOAT FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL,** SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF SALE

The below described vehicle is set for auction.

This auction is being performed per order of the Superior Court in CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0299, MICHELE JOAB v. JOHN HOSONO and CAROLYN HOSONO:

White SPORT LIMITED EDITION 2006 TOYOTA RAV4 4X2 (VIN No. JTMZD31V765009457), Saipan, CNMI.

Any interested bidder may contact MICHELINE BREL at (670) 235-8060 or (670) 484-3950. Auction will take place at the parking lot of the D'Torres Building, Garapan on

February 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

SALE SHALL BE FINAL. NO WARRANTIES.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN

Qualifications: Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) years of experience. Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than February 04, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. box 520059, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel.: (670) 433-2200 • Fax: (670) 433-1819/6082
tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 991(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 08, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
A. November 9, 2015

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IV. NEW BUSINESS
1. To review Tinian Municipal Scholarship Applicants for Spring 2016

V. MISCELLANEOUS MAATER
VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHNEIDER
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For Food and Beverage Concession

The Northern Marianas Sports Association (hereinafter, "NMSA") is responsible for the operation, management and administration of the Susupe Sports Complex. To assure that participants and spectators are accorded adequate food and beverage services at the Complex, NMSA hereby requests proposals from currently licensed companies, experienced and capable of providing such services and wishing to be considered for a Contract to operate a food and beverage concession. The Contract term will be from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

NMSA will evaluate proposals and award a Contract for the concession service.

The RFP Package will be available until February 29, 2016 during business hours at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., at the Conference room at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan.

Proposers are required to pay a $50.00 non-refundable fee for each copy of the RFP.

NMSA assumes no obligation of any kind for expenses incurred by a respondent to this Notice.

All inquiries must be in writing, and sent to Michael A. White at fax no. 234-9537 or emailed to mwhite@saipan.com.

Regal Cinema Saipan to feature Filipino film

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Regal Cinema Saipan, in partnership with The Filipino Channel, will be showing the Filipino movie *Everything About Her* at Saipan Megaplex 7 starting on Feb. 12.

The movie being shown on Saipan is a partnership between TFC and Regal Entertainment Group, which operates the island's lone cinema complex. The film will feature subtitles for non-Filipino speaking moviegoers,

"TFC was able to establish a partnership with Regal Cinemas and for our first movie screening, we will be showing the movie *Everything About Her*," said TFC marketing specialist James Redmond Chua, who is in charge of Saipan and the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The promotional poster of the Star Cinema-produced movie Everything About Her shows, clockwise from left, Vilma Santos, Xian Lim, and Angel Locsin.

The movie, which was given a Grade A rating by the Cinema Evaluation Board of the Philippines, features multi-awarded and veteran Filipino actress Vilma Santos and former teen star Angel Locsin. It also starts Xian Lim as Santos' estranged son Albert.

The CEBP grants tax incentives to films that they give a Grade A and B ratings to encourage Filipino filmmakers in producing more quality movies to increase the marketability of the Philippine cinema internationally.

The comedy-drama film revolves around real estate mogul Vivian (Santos) and Jaica (Locsin), a hired nurse, who were joined together after the latter was hired to take care of the former to conceal her medical condition.

The plot further develops when Vivian gives Jaica the task to convince her son Albert to come home in the hopes of fixing their broken relationship before she dies.

Everything About Her, directed by Joyce Bernal, grossed P15,000,000 (US$314,000) on opening day in the Philippines on Jan. 27. The movie was also shown on Jan. 29 in the U.S. (California, Texas, Alaska, Nevada, Hawaii, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Washington State, New Jersey and New York) and in Europe (France, Italy, Malta and Greece) on Jan. 31.

It will have separate showings in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait on Feb. 4l Canada on Feb. 5; Austria and the United Kingdom on Feb. 6; Spain on Feb. 7; Australia and Singapore on Feb. 11 and Feb. 21 in Singapore.

Criminal case vs ex-Tinian Dynasty VIP services manager dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday dismissed the indictment filed against former Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino VIP services manager George Que.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice the indictment against Que after the U.S. government filed an unopposed motion to dismiss the case.

Dismiss with prejudice means the U.S. government cannot re-file the case anymore.

The indictment charged Que with one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a Currency Transaction Report and nine counts of causing a financial institution to fail to file a CTR.

In the U.S. government's motion to dismiss, assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing said this motion is made in good faith, primarily based on the parties' deferred prosecution agreement and further discussions that the parties have had following the filing of that document.

Lorfing said Que's counsel is aware of this motion and does not oppose it.

Que, former Tinian Dynasty casino manager Tim Blyth, and Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., which owns the Dynasty, were charged with engaging in a conspiracy to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

Que, Blyth, and Hong Kong Entertainment all entered with the U.S. government a deferred prosecution agreement in exchange for the dismissal of the charges against them.

With respect to Que's case, the court approved the agreement in July 2014.

As part of the agreement, the case against Que would be held in abeyance for 18 months. If he complies with the conditions of the agreement, the charge against him will be dismissed.

The conditions include Que acknowledging responsibility for his conduct, agreeing to cooperate with the U.S. government in its investigation, and a promise to no longer work in any position in a U.S. financial institution where he would supervise employees responsible for handling currency.

Que also agreed to pay at least $5,000 as civil monetary penalty.

According to the agreement, during Que's tenure as VIP services manager between March 1, 2011, and April 24, 2013, Tinian Dynasty failed to prepare CTR forms for about $27 million in reportable currency transactions as required by law.

In July and September 2015, Manglona dismissed with prejudice the charges against Hong Kong Entertainment and Blyth respectively following the U.S. government's motion.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Saipan Tribune is inviting qualified candidates to apply for **ACCOUNTANT** position.

Qualifications:

- Associates degree in Finance or Accounting
- At least three years work-related experience in financial accounting with an emphasis on receivables and payroll
- Proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint office
- Knowledge in SAP R3 FICO accounting system is a plus, but not required
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player
- Above average written and oral English communication skills

Interested applicants may submit resume or obtain employment application at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located on 2nd floor of JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00pm, Friday, February 5, 2016.**

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. **16-005**

Opening Date: **Friday, January 29, 2016**
Closing Date: **Thursday, February 11, 2016**

Trades Assistant (Electrician)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. Assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks. Primary duties are as a TRADES ASSISTANT ELECTRICIAN: Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities; Monitoring Plant systems as assigned; Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection; Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used; Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete; Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports; Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities; Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting; Operating incinerators; oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters; Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping; Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $16,742.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : Four (4)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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ON $15.5M CONDO HOTEL PROJECT IN NAVY HILL

Zoning postpones hearing as some residents complain they're not notified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board postponed the public hearing set last Thursday on a company's application for a conditional use permit to build a $15.5-million, 11-storey condotel or condominium hotel on Isla Drive near Whispering Palms School in Navy Hill.

Zoning board member Bruce Bateman in an interview said they decided to hear the Beacon Hill Condominium's case perhaps in their next meeting or at some time when proper notifications of all the residents in the area of the project site have been made.

Bateman said the law requires that notice be made and that they simply require the developer, Prime Pacific Properties, Inc., to make that notice to all residents in the area within 300 feet and post the appropriate sign.

"When they do that and bring that proof to the Zoning administrator and the Zoning Office, then we hear the case. We just postponed it," he said.

Some people who attended the scheduled hearing expressed that no appropriate signage was posted in the area.

Bateman said there is a procedure that is supposed to be followed.

"There is actually a sign off sheet where each person within the 300 feet radius literally signs that they have been notified, that they receive notice of the day, the time of the public hearing," he said.

Bateman said apparently, the developer's representatives went around and could not find anybody.

Bateman said there are residents out there so the developer has to work little harder in getting that notice and bring that proof to the board.

Christopher F. Fryling, president of N15 Architecture Co. Inc. who filed the application for Prime Pacific Properties, said they will definitely meet with any of the neighbors that didn't get contacted.

Fryling said he understands that his staff did the notification requirement.

"So we will meet with them and we will meet with the board administrator and address their concerns on the technicalities of the project," said Fryling, who admitted that he is one of the investors in the Prime Pacific Properties.

He said they went around with the signage and followed the protocol.

Fryling said they have been making projects for years and probably completed about 100 applications.

"We know how to do it. I don't know what happen with this one," he said.

With a site area of 14,632.97 square meters, Beacon Hill Condominium will have 68 guestroom units with swimming pool at the ground level. There will be seven units of three-storey villas with swimming pool, and eight units of two-storey villas with swimming pool.

Fryling said they are going after the upper level market in Garapan or targeting those in the middle—the executives, managers, consultants, and others.

A condotel or condo hotel is a condominium but is operated as a hotel.

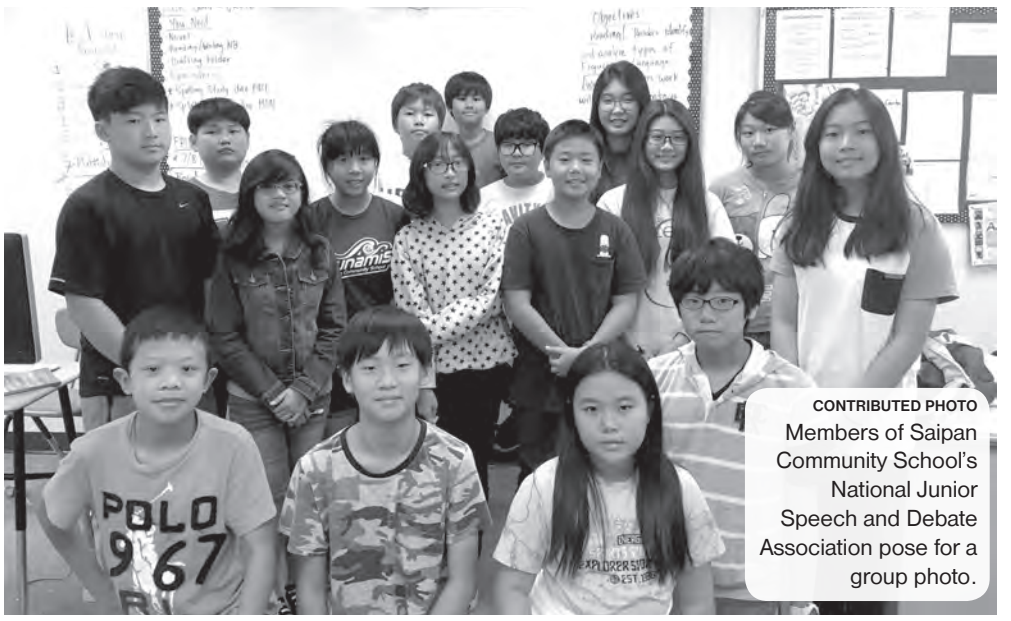
Fryling said if all permits are obtained, they are planning to immediately start construction this year.

SCS congratulates NJSDA winners

Saipan Community School is lauding its students who participated and won during the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition held last Jan. 23 at the Dandan Middle School.

The winners are the following:

■ James Park & Shania Lee (7th grade) Duo B - 1st Place
■ James Park - Poetry Masters C - 2nd Place
■ Shaina Lee - Prose Masters D - 2nd Place
■ Kate Ishida (8th grade) - Humorous Interpretation - 1st Place and Original Oratory - 1st Place
■ Esther Park (8th grade) - Storyteling B - 1st Place & Prose Masters C - 2nd Place
■ Maxine Rabago (7th grade) - Original Oratory - 2nd Place & Impromptu D - 3rd Place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Saipan Community School's National Junior Speech and Debate Association pose for a group photo.

■ Jeffrey Seo (8th grade) - Impromptu C - 1st Place & Poetry Masters C - 5th Place
■ Seung Jin Paik (6th grade) - Prose Masters A 3rd place
■ Vinson Bacani (7th grade) - Poetry Masters C - 4th place
■ Moon Zeng (6th grade) - Impromptu A - 2nd place & Poetry Masters A - 5th place
■ Paul Ham (6th grade) - Impromptu B - 2nd place
■ Tina Zhen (6th grade) - Impromptu B - 3rd Place
■ Seung Won Lee (6th grade) - Storytelling A - 5th place
■ Ye Lee Cha (8th grade) - Storytelling B - 3rd place & Prose Masters C - 5th place
■ Mark Nam (7th grade) - Storytelling B - 4th place ***(PR)***

4 TMS students place in NJSDA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tanapag Middle School students Maui Johnson, Froilan Camacho, and Magdalen Santos placed in their respective categories in last month's National Junior Speech and Debate Association at the Dandan Middle School.

Tanapag Middle School took part in last month's National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition at the Dandan Middle School.

The school sent five of its students in the competition and three placed in their respective categories.

"This is the first year that Tanapag has joined, and the second competition of the year that we have competed in. In the first competition, we had four competitors and all four placed in their divisions.

In the last competition held Jan. 23 at DMS, Tanapag Middle School students Maui Johnson, Froilan Camacho, and Magdalen Santos placed in their categories.

Johnson placed first in Poetry and 4th in Humorous Interpretation; Camacho placed third in Humorous Interpretation; and Magdalen Santos placed fifth in Humorous Interpretation. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 8, 2000

CPA backs economic revitalization plan

The Commonwealth Ports Authority strongly supports the economic revitalization plan of the CNMI government, as it ensured cooperation so long as the agency's capability to meet its debt requirements is not compromised. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said a detailed analysis of the ports authority's projected revenues and expenditures was specifically made to determine whether CPA can heed to calls for lower airport charges. According to Mr. Palacios, the financial review showed a modest increase in actual revenues compared to budgeted expenses which allowed CPA to adjust airport rates and extend the implementation of the Airline Incentive Program. He pointed out that CPA's responsibility to maintain the operation of three air transport facilities in the Northern Marianas, without the legislative appropriations, restrains the agency's capability to further reduce airport charges.

Private health providers eyed to handle GHLI

Legislators will ask members of the Health Commission for suggestions on how to resolve the unpaid debt of the Government Health Insurance as they raised the possibility of allowing a private health provider to handle the program temporarily. Since last year, members of the government health insurance are turned away by health providers in Hawaii due to non-payment of debt of the GHLI. While there have been previous meetings with legislators and Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, the agency now managing the health insurance, officials have yet to identify the source of funds which will be used to pay the debt. Rep. Peter said delay in the payment of Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queens Medical Center has made it difficult for members of the government health insurance to seek medical treatment in these institutions.

January 8, 2006

Air Saipan to land on Saipan tarmac in February

Air Saipan, Ltd. reiterated its full commitment to enhance passenger traffic to Saipan, as it disclosed over the weekend that the aircraft it is leasing from a U.S. airline company would arrive the Francisco Ada International Airport on Feb. 15.

Air Saipan chairman Dean Mills said the aircraft, which it would lease from an undisclosed U.S. airline company, would be based on Saipan. The aircraft will provide charter services between Saipan and Asian countries, including Japan and Korea, as well as Australia. The Marianas Visitors Authority has vowed to fully support Air Saipan once the company realizes its plan to introduce flight services to the islands. MVA chairman David Sablan earlier said the agency would develop travel packages from Australia, which Air Saipan plans to tap, among other tourist markets.

Lacks of quorum dooms senate sine die session

Due to apparent political division, the 14th Senate has ended without its members gathering for the traditional sine die session. Efforts by some members to gather the entire 14th Senate one last time failed because of lack of quorum. Sen. Joseph Mendiola said only four members of the nine-man legislative body showed up for the sine die session that was originally slated for Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, and rescheduled for the following day. The senators are all part of the incoming Senate leadership to be headed by Mendiola.

January 8, 2009

Feds to create monument council, with 3 from NMI

The federal government will be creating a five-man Advisory Council for the newly designated Marianas Trench Marine National Monument within three months after President George W. Bush's proclamation on Jan. 6. This Advisory Council will consist of three officials from the CNMI government and one representative from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard. They would be appointed for a three-year term by the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce.

Water shortages continue to plague Saipan

Water shortages in several areas on Saipan remain a big problem among residents, according to the Office of the Mayor. Tudela said he has been authorized to collect water from two designated areas. Accordingly, there are only two areas on Saipan that the supply of water has quite improved at present. These are Susupe and Chalan Kanoa, while supplies in other areas have not been enough. The Mayor's Office is using only one truck to serve areas where the water supply is very weak. Meanwhile, the office is also faced with problems in maintaining roads, primarily in interior areas around Saipan. Tudela said their equipment are already quite old and they have to purchase spare parts just to make sure that these will not pose any danger.

Birthright citizenship petition filed with Supreme Court

Does the Citizenship Clause entitle persons born in American Samoa, a U.S. territory for more than a century, to birthright citizenship?

This is the question raised by prominent Supreme Court attorney Theodore B. Olson in a petition for certiorari filed today on behalf of a group of passport-holding Americans denied recognition as U.S. citizens because they were born in American Samoa. Tuaua v. United States makes the case that Congress cannot legislate an exception to the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to exclude persons born on U.S. soil, whether born in a State or Territory.

"My passport says I am a U.S. national, but not a U.S. citizen. As someone born on U.S. soil who signed up for the draft during the Vietnam War, my family should not be treated as second-class Americans. I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will agree the Constitution does not allow Congress to create two separate classes of Americans," said Leneuoti Tuaua, lead plaintiff in Tuaua v. United States. Three of the five Tuaua plaintiffs are veterans; American Samoa has among the highest rates of U.S. military service in the nation, with casualty rates in Iraq and Afghanistan more than seven times the national average.

Leneuoti Tuaua is the lead plaintiff in Tuaua v. United States. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The text and history of the Citizenship Clause definitively show that the Constitution's guarantee of birthright citizenship applies in States and Territories alike," said Mr. Olson, who in 2008 wrote a letter with Harvard Professor Laurence Tribe defending the eligibility of John McCain to run for President as a "natural-born citizen" based on his birth in a U.S. possession, among other reasons. "We hope that the Supreme Court will take the case to once again make clear that Congress has no power to turn off or redefine the Constitution's guarantee of birthright citizenship."

"After more than a century, it is time for the Court to clarify whether people born in America's overseas territories have a constitutional right to citizenship or if citizenship can be denied to them based on the whim of Congress," said Neil Weare, who argued the case before the D.C. Circuit, and is President and Founder of We the People Project, a non-profit organization that advocates for equal rights and representation for the over 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories.

The D.C. Circuit's June opinion, authored by Judge Janice Rogers Brown and joined by Senior Judges Laurence H. Silberman and David B. Sentelle, held that the meaning of the Citizenship Clause was "ambiguous" as to whether its guarantee of birthright citizenship applied in overseas U.S. territories. The panel's opinion also broadly expanded the reach of the Insular Cases, a series of controversial decisions that have been criticized by First Circuit Judge Juan Torruella as creating a doctrine of "separate and unequal" status for residents of U.S. territories.

The Tuaua case and the controversial Insular Cases doctrine were examined in a recently published book, "Reconsidering the Insular Cases," which is the result of a major conference sponsored last year at Harvard Law School.

As discussed at Harvard, the Supreme Court explained in 2008 that although "[t]he Constitution grants Congress and the President the power to acquire, dispose of, and govern territory," it does not give them "the power to decide when and where its terms apply." The Court's decision in Boumediene v. Bush also rejected the idea that "the political branches have the power to switch the Constitution on or off at will," explaining that "[i]t may well be that over time the ties between the United States and any of its territories strengthen in ways that are of constitutional significance."

"This case represents an historic opportunity for the Supreme Court to clarify what the Insular Cases mean in U.S. territories today and to reject the idea that Congress has any power to simply turn constitutional rights in these areas on and off as it sees fit," Mr. Weare said.

"The D.C. Circuit's decision is in tension with recent Supreme Court pronouncements that Congress cannot pick and choose which constitutional rights apply in U.S. territories today. Tuaua provides the Court an opportunity to review these important constitutional questions, which affect the lives of more than 4 million Americans who live in U.S. territories," Mr. Olson said.

A recent mini-documentary examined the impact the inferior status of "non-citizen national" status has had on the American Samoan community in Los Angeles – the largest in the continental United States – who are denied the right to vote and even access to certain jobs, even as they are expected to pay the same taxes as other Americans.

Loa Pele Faletogo, President of the L.A.-based Samoan Federation of America, a plaintiff in the case, explained, "American Samoans living in Los Angeles and throughout the United States are denied voting rights and job opportunities because they are labeled with the second-class status of 'non-citizen national.' It is time the Supreme Court finally resolves this injustice."

HBO's *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* also examined this injustice in a segment that was cited by the Ninth Circuit for its sharp critique of the Obama Administration's continued reliance on the Insular Cases to deny equal rights in U.S. territories.

A decision by the Supreme Court on whether it will take up the case is expected by the end of the Term, which ends in June.

The D.C. Circuit's decision below is attached, court filings (including four amicus briefs filed below) are available here, and an FAQ about the case is available here.

For interviews with plaintiffs or attorneys, please contact Neil Weare at nweare@equalrightsnow.org or 202-304-1202.

OES lauds PGFC winners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Elementary School head coach Ernestina Agulto poses with the school's Primary Grade Forensic Conference team.

Oleai Elementary School interim principal Jasylene Parico, head coach Ernestina Agulto, and coach/registrar J. Kristine Wolf would like to congratulate its students for their success during the January Primary Grade Forensic Conference.

The school's successful PGFC participants are as follows:

Kinder-2nd Grade Division:

■ 1st Place-Karlymae Lizama, Readers Forum

■ 2nd Place-Michelle Ignacio, Readers Forum

■ 3rd Place-Michiko Ruben, Readers Forum

■ 3rd Place-Krislaine Cabanas, Readers Forum Masters

3rd Grade-5th Grade Division:

■ 1st Place-Lars Wolf, Humorous Interpretation

■ 1st Place-Sheena Gatdula, Readers Forum

■ 1st Place-Oceana Teigita, Carolinian Readers Forum

■ 2nd Place-Issa Teigita, Carolinian Readers Forum

■ 2nd Place-Dylan Jacolbe, Readers Forum Masters

■ 2nd Place-Oceana Teigita, Readers Forum Masters

■ 3rd Place-Tinialyn Litulumar, Carolinian Readers Forum

■ 3rd Place-Sandrin Antonio, Readers Forum

■ 3rd Place- Psa Lle Medina, Readers Forum Masters

■ 4th Place-Lyann Dela Cruz, Readers Forum

■ 4th Place-Aurvy Jacolbe, Readers Forum Masters

■ 4th Place-Latisha Ann De Jesus, Readers Forum Masters

■ 4th Place-Merry Ann Viesca & Lyann Dela Cruz, Duo Interpretation

■ 5th Place-Jhaylin Cruz, Readers Forum

■ 5th Place-Jia Ross Nicdao, Readers Forum Masters

■ 5th Place- Dylan Jacolbe & Angelica Mario, Duo Interpretation ***(PR)***

Falling fuel prices result in FAC decrease

Following a drop in average fuel prices, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will decrease the Fuel Adjustment Charge (pass-through rate, known previously as the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause).

The current FAC fuel charge of $.12076 per kWh will decrease to $.09359 per kWh effective Feb. 1, 2016. As a result, residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately $13.59 less in their monthly billing.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands.In May 2015, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate.

The FAC is used to purchase fuel and serves as one of the two components that make up a CUC power bill. The second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

CPUC granted CUC the ability to adjust the FAC rate based on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5-percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the FAC rate.

CPUC conducts periodic reviews of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that consumers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel. CNMI consumers have experienced an almost 60-percent decline in the FAC since mid-2014.

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government which provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai
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EDITORIAL

Make no little planets

"Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology announced Wednesday that they have found new evidence of a giant icy planet lurking in the darkness of our solar system far beyond the orbit of Pluto. They are calling it Planet Nine."

—*Washington Post*, Jan. 21, 2016

No, no, no. This can't be.

We're not talking about the likelihood of a new planet much larger than Earth, a planet so distant that it would take up to 20,000 years to orbit the sun.

That's thrilling.

But scientists calling this mysterious celestial body "Planet Nine"? Never.

Scientists who seek to ignite public imagination and unleash new funding for space exploration will quickly quash this Planet Nine fiasco. This planet isn't named Planet Nine. It has to be something better. Something that evokes the romance and danger of space. Something that can hold its own against the inspiring likes of Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, or Jupiter, the Roman thunder god.

And now, jostling for attention in the solar household, Planet Nine? That'll never get off the launch pad.

You might think we've embarked on a premature mission, since the planet hasn't yet been directly observed by astronomers. But we have faith.

One of Planet Nine's discoverers is astronomer Michael Brown, best known as the scientist whose observations led to Pluto's demotion from planet to "dwarf planet" in 2006. Brown calculates that the odds of the new planet's existence at "maybe 90 percent."

"OK, OK, I am now willing to admit: I DO believe that the solar system has nine planets," Brown wryly tweeted from his account @plutokiller.

So do we. That's why America should harness its greatest minds to bestow the perfect name on this new planet.

There hasn't been a call for planet-branding in decades, ever since the anointing of Pluto in 1930.

But scientists have been busy discovering other bodies — moons, comets, asteroids — and festooning them with names that fall short in the Inspiration of Humankind Department. For instance: Bebhionn, a moon of Saturn discovered in 2005. Or Carpo, a Jupiter moon, discovered in 2003. Or Fornjot, another Saturn moon and not much of an improvement on Bebhionn.

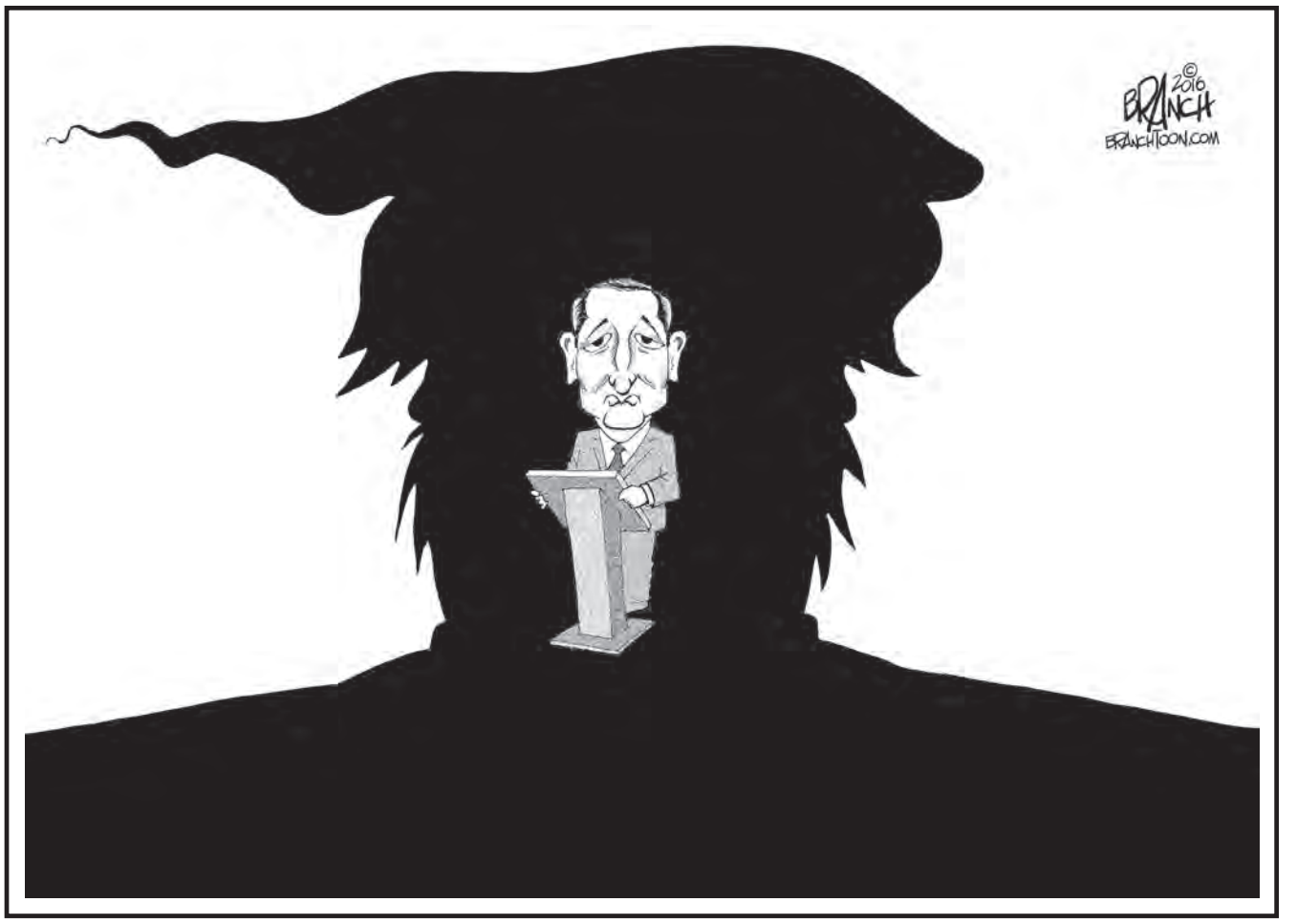
Yes, names matter. Astronomers who discover a comet get to paste their names on it (up to three names, separated by hyphens). Remember the gee-whiz landing of a craft on the comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko in 2014? That also could have been a less memorable landing on Comet 67P, the numbingly mundane name some scientists used.

The discoverer of this new planet has dibs to name it, pending International Astronomical Union approval. Traditionally, planets carry the names of mythological gods. But we don't know why this edict should rule for eternity.

How about an international contest to name the new planet?

There's precedent: The IAU recently announced the win-

See MAKE on Next Page



Zodiac

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune*.*

In the European tradition, time is measured by the Year of Our Lord, Anno Domini, started, mas o menos, with the birth of the infant Jesus. By our language, we are on the liturgical reckoning which measures a year with the advent of the infant four weeks before the big holiday, an old Bacchanalian feast day turned into the birth of the Holy Child, now celebrated as Christmas Day. We remembered months with the ditty, "30 days has September, April, June, and November; all the rest has 31, except February with 28, and a 29th added on leap years."

The Islamic one, incorporated into the current Solar Hijri or Shamsi Hijri of Iran and Afghanistan, is a real solar calendar that starts with the day after winter into spring, also known as the vernal equinox. So the Solar Hijri always begins on the first day of spring. The first six months has 31 days, and the next 5, 30. On ordinary year, the 12th month has 29, adding a day on the fourth year, the leap year, making 366 days.

The Gregorian calendar is 2016 years since Jesus was born, and the Solar Hijri is 621 or 622 years later, the year the Prophet Mohammed got the revelation of Allah through the Koran. The Gregorian calendar goes by four-year cycles while the Shamsi Hijri is 29, 33, 33, 33-year cycles, the leap cycle at the start. The Gregorian calculates by mathematical algorithm while the Solar Hijri observes the sun, with the standard time determined by an office in Teheran.

Both types of calendars follow the relationship of the earth to the sun as it journeys before the stellar constellations for which the Zodiac were named. Aries begins that journey, commencing at midnight of March 20, ending with Pisces 365/6 days later. Day 1 begins with the vernal equinox.

This tradition of looking up to the stars, or, at least, up in the sky, defined metaphors on what is important. The pharaoh is perched at the apex of the pyramid close to the sun, the god Rah, reigning during the day and going under the Nile at night only to emerge again the following day. The rituals of Egypt insured the sun rising again.

The Greeks took the skyward metaphor, housed power and authority in Mt. Olympus, giving the supreme the quality of human mercy that spilled over into the Moslem merchants that moved east with their Anshallah and left in the Austro-Polynesian tongue the Chamorro term for "thank God, thank you", Si Yu'us Maasi (Zeus, Deux, Dios is merciful). Even our marcher to Jerusalem got elevated into Cristo Rei that now reign supreme from the sky.

It is this skyward-looking that got abstracted into the cognitive sense of the infinite and eternity, so what is ultimately important is garbed in the language of the skies, adopting the Greco term "theo" that left us with our theological metaphysics, depending on the whims of Zeus of Olympus.

All these metaphors, however, redounded to the common intent to have human's "have life, and have it more abundantly." The religious metaphors from the Dharmic Om/Aum of the Hindu reverence to the balancing act of the yin-yang in the Buddhist tradition, to the triune formulations of the Bishops of Rome that pits thesis against antithesis to effect a synthesis, the practical quad of the plaza by the Mediterranean and the villages of the Yucatan, the Sierras and the Andes, to pentagonal mindsets of the thinkers by the Potomac, the ultimate aim was the welfare (the joke is, if the Fathers by Trastaverde mistook "celibate" for "celebrate", the grunts took "welfare" and read "warfare" into it) and wellbeing of the human involved rather than the adulation and idolatry to anything external to them.

The signs of the Zodiac physically reveals the location of the sun (and the Earth) in relation to star constellations, metaphorically, to the fortunes, buenas y malas, of humans as their fate and destiny is determined by the sign they were born in, much of all these metaphors dismissed easily as superstition, was a celebration of profound humanity, enshrined in the Christian liturgical rhythm of "confession, affirmation, and dedication."

The issue begs the question: can we point to profound humanity without use of the theological metaphor? The answer is "yes" to me, but right now, the field is a dry desert best filled with deafening silence than the din of another set of metaphors that still locate and derive what is humanly profound in the "infinite, eternal, providential, and divine."

The language of profound humanity, lauded by the superlatives of Aquinas supernatural, underpins our earthrise earthwise, earthbound homebound poetry, without staring up high in the sky, looking at the Zodiac signs of the constellations or its stellar equivalence in medieval theology but tasting the grub and grime of the mellow and the dusty down here on Earth, in the here-and-now.

A friend once asked why I left the revered ordained clergy. Without missing a beat, I replied, "I celebrate the ordinary and the common without the lifted chalice." He didn't say a word.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Keeping youth athletes safe

By JIM JORDAN
Tribune News Service

Congressman Jim Jordan represents Ohio's Fourth District, and co-chairs the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports. He is a four-time high school state wrestling champion and two-time NCAA Division I wrestling champion.

As a former athlete at the University of Wisconsin, I know the positive impact sports can have on a young person's development. During my high school wrestling years at Graham Local Schools in St. Paris, Ohio, my coach Ron McCunn taught his athletes many important lessons. Most important was his emphasis on discipline. He used to say, "Discipline is doing what you don't want to do when you don't want to do it." In simple terms this meant doing things the right way when you'd rather do them the convenient way.

Each year, athletics have an outsized impact on our nation's youth, ultimately helping them to develop into adults who can handle pressure and overcome adversity. Sports when done right instill important principles and healthy habits in young people all across America.

The benefits of youth sports are many in number and significant in impact. We know, however, that participation in any physical activity carries risk. Each time a young person goes to practice or competes, there's a chance of injury. Each time they suit up and step on the field, the court, the track or the mat there is a real chance that someone can get hurt.

Therefore we have a responsibility to mitigate that risk to the greatest extent possible. Coaches must provide training on safe techniques at practice — which of course requires becoming educated themselves. Parents must be engaged and encourage their children to speak up when they are injured. Policymakers must, where appropriate, enact laws that put in place robust safeguards to protect athletes at every age. Recent fatalities among young athletes are stark reminders of this fact. As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I take this responsibility seriously. One fatality is one too many.

With the urgency and focus that this issue requires, we must continue to make policy that enhances sports safety and educates people so kids have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of athletics and parents can make informed decisions. Over the years, policymakers have passed legislation that has made meaningful progress toward achieving these goals. The Lystedt laws — which passed in every state and mandate a gradual return-to-play protocol to better protect youth athletes in all sports from the risks of preventable concussions — are just a recent example of gains we've made. My colleagues and I are committed to building upon this progress.

Professional sports bodies are critical partners in these efforts, since they are the true experts on the inherent risks in each individual sport. Just look at the U.S. Soccer Federation's recent recommendation banning headers for players 10 and under; the NBA's work with USA Basketball to provide safety training and licensing for youth coaches; or the NFL's Heads Up Football program, which teaches proper tackling and blocking techniques, educates parents and trains and certifies coaches on safety fundamentals, appropriate contact practice schedules, proper equipment fitting and how to recognize and treat concussions.

There is a significant amount of evidence to suggest that all this work is paying off. Awareness among parents and athletes is greater than ever, and importantly, data tracking is showing key reductions in particular injuries.

More people are engaged in the conversation about sports safety than ever before, and not only in this country. This October in London, the NFL convened representatives from many of the world's major sports leagues and leading concussion experts for the second annual International Professional Sports Concussion Research Think Tank to share best practices and protocols and collaborate on ways to advance progress that will positively impact athletes of all ages and across all sports.

I am encouraged by these developments, and my colleagues and I urge all those involved with youth sports to be active in these types of efforts; this is what our Caucus on Youth Sports is all about. Through health and safety initiatives, we can work together to protect our children and all athletes from unnecessary risk so that they can get the most out of the game and reach their full potential — on and off the field.

Self-inflicted economic decline

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

About 14 years ago, major Japanese investments took an exodus that included withdrawing some $5-7 billion in money that used to be recycled here. Coupled by the closure of the $2.1-billion apparel industry our fiscal posture took a nosedive.

Their fade into the sunset was the result of weak-kneed elected officials ignorant of history while at a loss of the importance of policy stability on investments.

Then came the visit of Emperor Akihito. This was the most troubling in that he didn't come to fix a fractured relationship but simply to put the final closure of Nippon investments.

The investment exodus created a vicious economic depression or persistent fiscal crisis we haven't been able to fathom to date. So we had to endure dazed public officials while investors walked to jet ways not with their feet but luggage!

Did we do anything to stop the exodus or seek diplomatic intervention to urge Nippon investments to stay back? No! Thus the self-inflicted economic decline that consistently deepens by the day! Is there hope of reviving it? Or have we been laggard?

The dual shutter created monetary or an economic vacuum. Then we had to deal with precarious Sino-investments. There's uncertainty gliding in trepidation what becomes of investments that rides largely on speculation based on stock sale. With the recent burst of China's economic bubble, would it kill what is now a volatile investment here or would superficial cover prolong it a little more? Does this mean anything for the nimble minds on the hill?

Tourism: Today, tourism has dropped considerably from the loss of international flights and the shift in Japanese visitors heading elsewhere.

I waited in earnest to hear the trumpet of economic revival blaring from atop imperial Capital Hill. It seems muted or nonexistent not to mention the vacuum of suspicion it has created. Strange the dementia that has metastasized among the elected elite unsure how the economy took a nosedive. Without decent understanding of this history is there a chance they could do anything of significance to shift paradigms?

The thematic redundancy of bankruptcy leaves heavy lack of trust in government. I'm not peddling political fiction. Ask the villagers for their sentiments upon which I've drawn my own viewpoint. Is paradise in trouble? You've created a vacuum of suspicion. The onus to resolve it is still on the side of the NMI's court.

Retrospectively, I never had the illusion that it was easy. It's a protracted system that takes years of policy refinement before we reach smooth sailing. I think it's still called self-government!

Resetting Buttons: With mounting deficit while revenue generation simultaneously heads south we quiz what effects the dual fiscal drain would have on life in paradise.

The tattletale mission to Washington isn't going to help the fiscal crisis here. And not for as long as the NMI doesn't resolve to fix the self-inflicted fiscal mess or a fully thought-out plan to put its ducks in order.

Substantive questions would be asked of the NMI some of which would be heavily pointed and merciless. Those questions would put into perspective how well we understand the roles and functions of self-government. I'm sure we'd quickly learn that bankruptcy isn't part of effective home rule nor is sleepwalking the realistic paradigm to employ to reset buttons.

Would Washington reward the NMI with a bailout given our profligacy? Aren't our government accounts in tatters that stem from a bloated public sector, unaffordable pension promises, labor issues, the evacuation of some 3,000 of our own to the U.S. meaning far less by way of a tax base, and a tax system that is full of holes? With mounting debts, it's sufficient a tectonic shift to derail paying for timely deliver of essential public services.

Furthermore, corruption metastasizing in affluenza is well known in Washington. It brings into focus nothing but humiliation in our adolescent perception of self-government. The lack of integrity of NMI investment policies is another aspect that requires full explanation specifically, how come it failed to spur additional investments via an even playing field? Did you ensure that soft counting in the casino is taxed a certain percent? If not, isn't this a huge drain in revenues the NMI could collect and use for public services suffering from budgetary shortfall?

Begin with a Plan: Unless data is collected to show how much deficit we have in our books versus revenue collection only then would one have a clearer view of the real state of fiscal affairs here. With this on hand dedicated planning can begin what economic ventures are likely to spur economic growth. It requires meticulous planning moving from A, B, and C. We could retract when we reach "D" for policy refinement. Lest you forget lasting policy dictates everything! Either we humbly plan our future or watch the sturdy disintegration of the NMI.

Step into your future: Training and education are the only vehicles to bridging "job-vs-skills" of the local work force. Training in any vocational or technical area is the only opportunity to getting skills for certain jobs.

The trainee is taught how to do certain tasks at work. Upon getting the training under his belt, he's prepared to begin working on his own. As he goes on and refines his skills it sets him up for promotions. It enables him to bring home more money for his individual or family needs.

There are other areas like information technology or the service industry where interested locals could apply for training and eventual fulltime employment.

Students now attending NMC are also preparing for a future. A good education should set them up for future careers. It's a very healthy undertaking.

The key success factor however gradual is the building of a competent pool of vocational, technical and college graduates the demand of which would continue to rise. Like the journey of a thousand miles it begins with the first step. Do it and do it now!

MAKE

From Page 10

ners for its first-ever naming contest for 14 stars and 31 so-called exoplanets orbiting them. The IAU said it tallied more than half a million votes from 182 countries. The names came from mythological figures (Meztli, Aztec moon goddess), famous scientists (Galileo, Copernicus), ancient cities (Tadmor, now Syria's Palmyra), fictional characters (Sancho of "Don Quixote") and extinct languages (Veritate, from the Latin, veritas). That's half a million votes for exoplanets that are way, way out there. Imagine the excitement for a new planet in our own solar system.

Or … how about a worldwide lottery that raises billions for research and allows one lucky winner to name the planet?

Or a bidding war among those with the world's fattest wallets and biggest egos for naming rights? (Planet Trump? Planet Musk? Planet Buffett?)

Think big, Earthlings.

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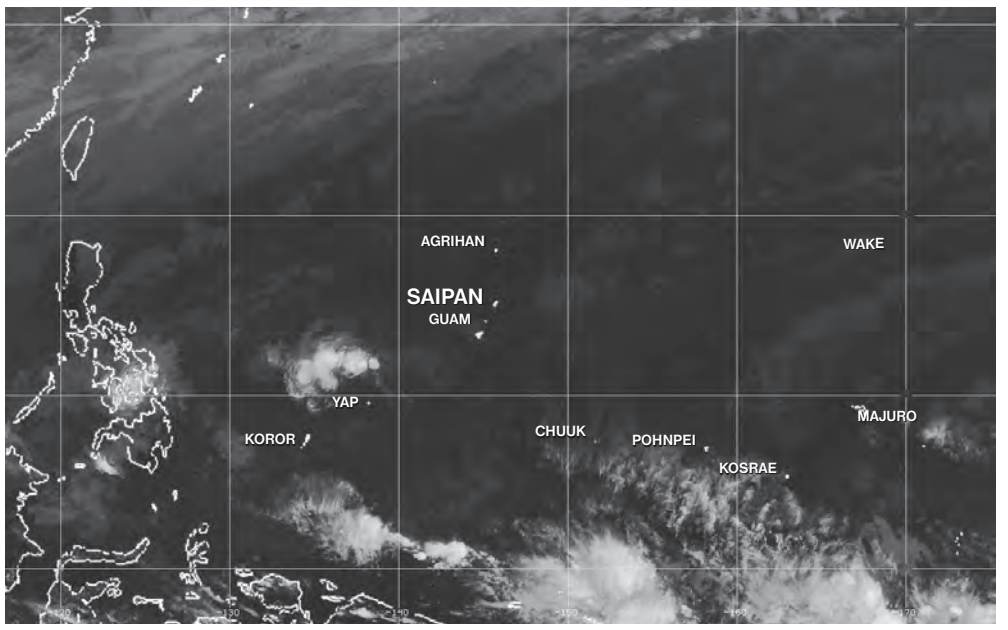
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts southwestward from 25N136E to beyond 130 at 22N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy showers are along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. A trade-wind disturbance just northwest of Yap is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms mainly between 10N and 12N from 136E to 142E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Koror within 50 miles of a line from 7N131E to 5N131E and southeast of Koror within 60 miles of a line from 2N136E to 3N138E to 1N141E. Also, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of 1N from 150E to 165E. This area is well south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. A trade-wind disturbance near the date line is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near and east of Tarawa south of a line from 2N170E to 6N180. Trade-wind cloudiness and patchy areas of light showers are east of the Mariana Islands mainly between 150E and Wake Island.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼67
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼20
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼56
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲64	▼41
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼74
Melbourne	Showers	▲69	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲50	▼42
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲46	▼27
Rome	Showers	▲59	▼46
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼39
San Francisco	Showers	▲55	▼44
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼22
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼33
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲52	▼42

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:41 AM	1:27 PM
Thursday	2:32 AM	2:15 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	3:07 PM
Saturday	4:17 AM	4:01 PM
Sunday	5:11 AM	4:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ESFDB kicks off Catholic School Week

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja joined Mount Carmel School on Saipan and other countries in observing Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 31 to Feb. 6.

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service," which highlights the schools' focus on faith development, academic excellence, and dedication to community service.

At Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, Catholic Schools Week is a celebration of all the elements of our school that make it such a great place: students, parents, administration, faculty, staff, friends, and the entire parish community.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja kiced off the event with a special Mass at San Isidro Church on Jan. 31.

"Catholic schools provide us with the best opportunity to evangelize, catechize and educate our Catholic youth in the rich traditions of the Church," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

"Catholic schools are a vital aspect of the Church's mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and so an important aspect of our own teaching mission," added Atalig.

During Catholic Schools Week, students shared their thoughts about what attending Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja means to them.

■ "I am grateful that my parents have given me the opportunity to go to a school with strong values. These values will stay with me the rest of my life. God has given me many blessings and my Catholic education is just one of the many that makes me grateful and makes a difference in my life."—***Eighth grader and student body president Angelo S. Lucero***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, ESFDB students pose with Rev. Fr. Isaac Ayuyu at the San Isidro Church in Sinapalo, Rota.

■ "ESFDB is preparing me for my future by bringing me closer to God. I have the privilege of learning about my faith in religion class every day ESFDB —***Seventh grader and student body vice president Jeremy John Atalig II***

■ "ESFDB teaches us responsibility for one another and to respect one another."—***Fifth grader Kaitlyn Balgoa***

■ "My ESFDB education will help me in the future because I am learning to be a hard worker and a good student. I have also learned to love God, my parents, my teachers, my friends, and other people. I know God loves us very much."—***Second grader Edward U. Maratita III***

■ "I like my school because we love one another just the way God does. I love my family, my teacher Mrs. Atalig, and my classmates."—***Kindergarten student Eianne Miel Ladao***

"Even as economic times become more difficult, our Catholic school continues to provide outstanding value in educating the whole child," said board chair Edward Maratita Jr. "The emphasis on the teachings of the Catholic Church, the overall importance of Christian values and the central place of community and service make Catholic schools the premier place to give our children the best preparation for their future."

"The success of ESFDB and any Catholic schools is attributable, in part, to the formation of caring communities of parents, administrators, teachers, staff, and students dedicated to academic excellence and to moral and spiritual values," added Maratita.

In addition, the school would like to recognize the following hardworking and dedicated lay teachers who teach a highly diverse body of students; Carmen H. Atalig, Florinda M. Chavez, Geraldine Dela Cruz, Monette M. Ladao, Mary Rose S. Lucero, Lea D. Maratita, and Edward Maratita, Jr.

Here's a look at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's schedule of events during Catholic Schools Week: Sunday: Kickoff day/Mass at San Isidro Church at 8:30am; Monday: Presentation by Rev. Fr. Isaac Ayuyu-Faith; Tuesday: Discussion-Knowledge; Wednesday: Home Visit of Sick People in the community-Service; Thursday: Cultural Activities; and Friday: Open House/Family Night/Potluck Dinner.

This year's ESFDB Catholic Schools Week celebration is spearheaded by Florinda M. Chavez, class adviser for the first to second grades.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students would like to express their appreciation to the parents, Parent Teacher Organization officers, board of directors, Rev. Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Monsignor Louis Antonelli, Mayor Efraim Atalig and staff, 15th Rota Municipal Council, CNMI PSS Board of Education member Tanya King, and Tita Hocog. ***(ESFDB)***

'Pacific Community' name adopted

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Expect to see and hear a lot more about the Pacific Community.

This follows the decision that the "Secretariat of the Pacific Community" should be known simply by its formal name, the "Pacific Community."

"By adopting the 'Pacific Community' as our public name we're essentially going back to the future, as this was the legal name chosen by our members back in 1997, replacing the 'South Pacific Commission' title," the Pacific Community director-general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said.

"Reverting to our organization's formal name reflects the Pacific Community's inclusive mandate and broad Pacific region coverage, and promotes greater ownership by our 26 country and territory members, beyond the secretariat.

"The name change has coincided with the release of our Strategic Plan for 2016-2020, and is part of our sharper focus on sustainable development results, recognising that development effectiveness does indeed rely on partnerships built on shared goals and commitment," Tukuitonga said.

A refreshed Pacific Community logo has been released which retains the familiar circular element that has been part of the organization's logo for more than three decades.

The abbreviation "SPC" is being retained given its widespread use across the Pacific Islands region.

The Pacific Community Logo Use Guidelines are available online here. All partners of the Pacific Community (SPC) are being asked to use the correct name and logo.

The logo files may be obtained by emailing helpdesk-publications@spc.int. (SPC)

COTA team completes passenger assistance, safety sensitive training

Last week, the entire staff and management of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority participated in a two-day professional development training on passenger assistance and sensitivity training.

Certified Community Transportation Association of America Passenger Service and Safety trainer, Ginger Porter, M.Ed said in a statement, "The COTA Team is making great strides in skill and knowledge about transit services. Their completion of nationally certified training in Passenger Service and Safety this past weekend provides the Saipan community with trust that operators, dispatchers, and all office staff are attuned to customer service issues and safety procedures. It was a pleasure to bring this training to such an eager group and I look forward to seeing the development of the COTA system."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority staff pose for a group shot after taking part in a professional development training on passenger assistance and sensitivity training.

In order for COTA to continue delivering safe and courteous transit services for our community, the proper training opportunities should be afforded to the team accordingly. The need for this particular type of training echoes the fact that passenger transportation is a service industry. The most important asset in any transit agency or provider are the transit operators. By providing these training opportunities for the COTA team, skills and knowledge are enhanced for each team member that will, in turn, benefit the CNMI community as a whole.

Special Assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda P. Camacho shares, "One of my goals here at COTA is to do the very best I can to professionally develop this young and striving team. Each one of us who make up the COTA team plays a vital role to ensure that we provide the best quality transportation service to our community." ***(PR)***

Exemption of US longline vessels in A. Samoa waters OK'd

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Effective last Friday, U.S.-federally permitted longline vessels in American Samoa that are over 50 feet in length can fish for pelagic species in certain areas of the American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced the final rule, which will publish in the Federal Register on February 3, 2016.

The LVPA, which extends out to 30 to 50 nautical miles from shore around the islands of American Samoa, prohibits vessels greater than 50 feet from fishing within the area. In 2015, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) undertook decision-making to amend the applicable federal LVPA regulations to provide an exemption to large vessels in the American Samoa longline fishery to allow them to fish seaward of 12 nautical miles from shore around the islands of Tutuila, Swains Island and the Manu'a Islands. Fishing around Rose Atoll Marine National Monument remains unchanged.

The LVPA was developed by the Council and approved by NMFS in 2002 to prevent potential gear conflicts between large and small fishing vessels. At that time, approximately 40 alia longline vessels were operating in offshore waters around American Samoa. Originally used to target bottomfish, the alia vessels range from 25 to 40 feet in length and have a catamaran hull.

Since 2002, the alia longline fleet in American Samoa declined to the point where only one alia longline vessel was operating in recent years. In 2014, the Council proposed opening the LVPA as a means to assist the larger US longline vessels based in American Samoa. The US fleet was experiencing financial difficulties attributed in part to market competition resulting from an influx of Chinese longline vessels in South Pacific albacore fishery. In making its decision, the Council noted that the National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require the achievement of optimum yield and the fair and equitable allocation of privileges. The Council took final action on the measure in March 2015. The exemption will be reviewed annually by the Council to take into consideration any new small vessel fisheries development initiatives, small vessel participation and catch rates.

Council Chair Edwin Ebisui Jr. noted that the measure is important to maintain the supply of US caught albacore from the local longline fleet to the Pago Pago-based canneries in American Samoa. The exemption will improve the viability of the American Samoa longline fishery and achieve optimum yield from the fishery while preventing overfishing.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was established by Congress in 1976. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Council has authority over the fisheries in the Pacific Ocean seaward of the state/territory waters of Hawai`i, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Pacific Remote Island Areas.

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council: Appointees by the Secretary of Commerce from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawai`i governors: Michael Duenas, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (vice chair); Edwin Ebisui (Hawai`i) (chair); Michael Goto, United Fishing Agency Ltd. (Hawai`i); John Gourley, Micronesian Environmental Services (CNMI) (vice chair); Julie Leialoha, biologist (Hawai`i); Dr. Claire Tuia Poumele, Port Administration (American Samoa); McGrew Rice, commercial and charter fisherman (Hawai`i) (vice chair); and William Sword, recreational fisherman (American Samoa) (vice chair). Designated state officials: Suzanne Case, Hawai`i Department of Land and Natural Resources; Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; Richard Seman, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources; and Matt Sablan, Guam Department of Agriculture. Designated federal officials: Matthew Brown, USFWS Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office; Michael Brakke, US Department of State; RADM Vincent B. Atkins, US Coast Guard 14th District; and Michael Tosatto, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office. ***(WESTPAC)***

16 teams confirmed for Human Duck Race

The Pacific Islands Club Race Around the River (also known as the Human Duck Race) will kick off this year's Duck Race for Cancer this Saturday at PIC at 6pm

As of press time, there were 16 teams confirmed for this year's race. "It is always great to see past participants taking to the waters of the PIC Lazy River, but this year we have a new flock of contestants!" said race director Glenn Policare.

Returning to the flowing waters of San Antonio will be the likes of DFS, the Saipan Swim Club, Northern Marianas College, Island Apparel, and Triple J Motors.

The trend this year looks to be first-timers. Island Training Solutions, Paradise Dental Clinic, Marianas Medical Center, Bridge Capital, and Kanoa Resort Saipan will all be sending swimmers to the race for the very first time.

"This year's race will have a bit of a twist," said Policare. "In year's past, there has only been on representative per organization. We tried to level out the playing field this year by inviting three participants per team."

The relay will have each of the swimmers make their way around part of the lazy river. The first swimmer will swim to their partner and pass off their duck hat to the second leg of the race. The second swimmer will pass their duck hat and inflatable to the anchor. The final swimmer, adorned with a duck beak, hat and inflatable will make their way to the finish line.

Sixteen teams have confirmed, but there are 24 available slots. "It is easy to enter," said Policare. "Just fill out the form, sign the waiver and get ready to swim!" The entry fee is only $50. First prize will be three interchangeable PIC Corporate membership cards along with their name etched into the perpetual trophy.

Following the Human Duck Race, PIC will then launch 2,500 rubber ducks into the Lazy River. PIC staffers are still out selling ducks to the community at large.

Rubber ducks for the duck race are $5. Prizes for the rubber duck race is $2,500 for first place, $300 for second place, $200 for third place, and $50 for fourth place.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information, contact PIC at 234-7976 and request to be transferred to SEA department or contact Glenn Policare at glenn.policare@picsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

DISCUSSIONS FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Board and management of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. met for their monthly meeting last Jan. 21 and 25. Among the discussions were the potential plans for rate adjustment proposals.

Pacific Community strengthens ties with NZ's largest volunteer agency

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—The Pacific Community (SPC) and Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding that signals a greater commitment to work together to assist Pacific Island countries and territories with achieving their development aspirations.

The three-year partnership was signed in Wellington, New Zealand, by the Pacific Community director-general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga and VSA chief executive Dr. Gill Greer.

"I'm delighted with the resolve of our two organizations to complement one another's efforts for the benefit of Pacific Islands people by calling upon New Zealand's wonderful volunteering spirit," Tukuitonga said.

"SPC works across 25 broad sectors including fisheries, public health surveillance, geoscience and plant genetic resources. The skills and experience of VSA's volunteers will be an invaluable contribution to this important work," Tukuitonga added.

Greer said, "VSA and SPC share ambitions for a prosperous Pacific, in which people are able to create better lives for themselves and their children. Working with SPC will allow us to offer even more opportunities for our Kiwi volunteers to use their remarkable skills and experience to achieve these goals."

Cooperation between the two organisations dates back to 2013 involving SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division, the Forum Fisheries Agency, and work related to disaster preparedness in Vanuatu.

This new agreement covers all future collaboration, which will see New Zealand volunteers assigned to SPC activities and projects across the Pacific for up to two years.

In the 53 years since Sir Edmund Hillary was its founding president, VSA has recruited over 3,000 New Zealand volunteers for the Asia-Pacific region.

SPC is the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region, proudly supporting development since 1947. It is an international organization owned and governed by 26 country and territory members, including New Zealand.

The agreement signing has coincided with a High-level Consultation between New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and SPC to discuss progress under their strategic Partnership Arrangement 2014-2024, focused on sharing expertise and resources to support sustainable Pacific Islands development. ***(SPC)***

Business

Alphabet comes before Apple as world's most valuable company

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Alphabet now comes before Apple atop the list of the world's most valuable companies.

The shift occurred in Monday's extended trading after Alphabet, Google's new parent company, released a fourth-quarter earnings report that highlighted the robust growth of the digital ad market. Apple Inc.'s iPhone, meanwhile, is suffering its first downturn since it debuted eight years ago.

Alphabet Inc. earned $4.9 billion on revenue of $21.3 billion in the fourth quarter. If not for employee stock expenses and certain other items, Alphabet said it would have earned $8.67 per share. That figure easily topped the average estimate of $8.10 per share among analysts surveyed by FactSet.

The report provided the most detailed breakdown yet on the profits pouring in from Google's dominant search engine and ad network. (Google reorganized itself under Alphabet last October.) Investors pushed up Alphabet stock $35.73, or 4.6 percent, to $806.50 in extended trading.

Based on that after-hours bump, Alphabet's market value stood at $555 billion while Apple's was at $533 billion, based on the most recent regulatory filings showing the company's outstanding shares. The rankings could quickly change again in regular trading Tuesday.

Apple's stock has been sliding amid concerns over slowing iPhone sales. Meanwhile, Alphabet's stock has surged by 45 percent since the end of 2014 when it was still trading under Google's name.

The fourth-quarter report marks the first time Alphabet has spelled out the costs of running still-experimental businesses that are trying to do everything from eliminating human drivers to curing cancer.

AP
Electronic screens post the price of Alphabet stock, Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York.

Until now, Google chose to hide the expense of running those peripheral operations in its financial statement. The company's opaque accounting made it difficult to know just how much profit Google reaped from its primary business—selling digital ads next to everything from search results to YouTube videos.

In the fourth quarter, Google produced an operating profit of $6.8 billion on revenue of $17.1 billion, after subtracting ad commissions. That translates into a whopping profit margin of 40 percent. Apple registered an operating profit margin of 32 percent in its most recent quarter.

Meanwhile, Alphabet's other companies together produced an operating loss of $1.2 billion on revenue of just $151 million. Alphabet labels that category "other bets." For the full year, Alphabet's other companies lost $3.6 billion on revenue of $448 million.

The optimism surrounding Alphabet stems in part from hopes that the company is developing more financial discipline as it discloses more earnings details. Google had become known for its free-spending habits and reluctance to share information with analysts.

The change in sentiment coincided with Google's hiring of a new chief financial officer, Ruth Porat, last May. Porat, a Wall Street veteran, has consistently signaled her intent to rein in spending.

CDC says Chipotle-linked outbreak of E. coli appears over

WASHINGTON (AP)—Looks like it's safe to bite into that burrito.

The federal agency that monitors public health says the outbreak of E. coli illness linked to Chipotle restaurants that sickened 60 people appears to be over.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday the most recent illness reported to the agency started on Dec. 1.

Although the CDC closed its investigation, the source of the illness that spread to 14 states is still unknown. Chipotle executives say they may never be able to identify what made people sick.

Denver-based Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. undertook an aggressive revamping of food preparation methods at its more than 1,900 locations. But the outbreak drove the company's stock down by 26 percent over the past three months and it warned in December of a potentially sizeable hit to profits.

Its stock rallied following the CDC announcement, closing Monday up $19.67, or 4.3 percent, at $472.64.

"We are pleased that the CDC has concluded its investigation, and we have offered our full cooperation throughout," the company said in a statement. It added that it's confident that changes in its preparation methods mean all its food is "delicious and safe."

People usually get sick from Shiga toxin-producing E. coli, the bacteria commonly associated with foodborne outbreaks, for two to eight days after swallowing the germ, according to the agency. Most infected people get diarrhea and abdominal cramps.

The Chipotle episode began last summer when the chain was tied to foodborne illnesses in California and Minnesota, though those cases didn't get as much attention.

Then, at the end of October, E. coli cases were reported in Oregon and Washington, prompting the company to shut down 43 restaurants in those states. YouGov Brand Index said customer perceptions about Chipotle sank to their lowest level since it began tracking the company in 2007. That was before additional cases popped up in seven more states.

Airlines restore tiny perks, like pretzels, to pacify fliers

NEW YORK (AP)—After 15 years of near austerity, U.S. airlines are restoring some small perks for passengers crammed into coach.

Don't expect ample legroom or free checked bags. But fliers will find improved snacks, a larger selection of free movies and—on a few select routes—the return of free meals.

Monday, American Airlines became the latest carrier to add something back. It announced the return of free snacks in the economy section and more free entertainment options on some aircraft.

American, which recently merged with US Airways, hasn't offered free snacks since 2003. US Airways stripped passengers of snacks in 2008.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the subsequent recession, U.S. airlines removed almost every perk imaginable on domestic flights. Hot meals disappeared along with legroom, blankets and pillows.

"It was really about survival," says Fernand Fernandez, vice president of global marketing at American.

When Continental Airlines stopped giving out free cookies and mini bags of pretzels in 2011—after its merger with United Airlines—it said the move would save $2.5 million a year.

Since then, mergers have created four mega-carriers that control more than 80 percent of the domestic market. They started charging $25 for each checked suitcase. And more seats have been crammed into planes to maximize profits. Now the industry is making record profits.

"What has changed ," Fernandez says, "is that the airlines have been able to fix our core business and be able to reinvest in our customers."

That means new planes, larger overhead bins and for a long time, nicer first class cabins.

Now a bit of that wealth is trickling back to coach.

This month, American will start offering Biscoff cookies or pretzels to passengers flying between New York and San Francisco or Los Angeles. By April, those snacks will expand to all other domestic routes. In May, American will bring back full meal service for coach passengers between Dallas and Hawaii.

"We know that we have customers who select our airline based on price and we're really excited to offer them a product that is superior to choosing an ultra-low cost carrier," Fernandez says.

Amtrak engineer recalls opening throttle before fatal crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—The last thing Amtrak engineer Brandon Bostian remembers before last May's fatal crash in Philadelphia is pushing the throttle forward to pick up speed and then braking when he felt the train going too fast into a sharp curve, according to a transcript of his interview with federal accident investigators.

When he realized the train was about to derail, Bostian said he was holding tightly to the controls and thinking, "Well, this is it, I'm going over."

The transcript was among more than 2,200 pages of documents released Monday by the National Transportation Safety Board. The documents don't come to any conclusions on the cause of the crash but offer a glimpse into what investigators have learned thus far.

Among the most illuminating are two transcripts of interviews Bostian had with investigators, one immediately after the May 12 crash that killed eight people and injured nearly 200 others, and the second in November.

In the later interview, Bostian provided investigators with a vivid account of what he believes happened in the seconds before Train 188 left the tracks—a sharp contrast from his first interview, where he said he remembered little.

Bostian, who suffered a head injury in the crash, cautioned that there were "several gaps" in his recollection but that "a couple of prominent scenes" had come back to him since the previous interview.

He said he remembers pushing the throttle to bring the train up to speed in an 80 mph zone after first thinking the limit there was 70 mph.

"Once I pushed the throttle forward in an attempt to bring the train up to 80 miles an hour, I don't have any other memories until after the train was already in the curve," Bostian said in the November interview.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,449.18	1,939.38	4,620.37
-17.12	-0.86	+6.41
-0.10%	-0.04%	0.14%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4136	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7794	Philippine Peso	47.7595
British Pound	0.695	Indian Rupee	67.8204	Singapore Dollar	1.424
Canadian Dollar	1.4013	Indonesian Rupiah	13630	South Korean Won	1206.85
Chinese Yuan	6.5825	Japanese Yen	120.67	Swiss Franc	1.0197
Euro	0.9175	Malaysian Ringgit	4.204	Taiwan Dollar	33.4005
		New Zealand Dollar	1.5339	Thailand Baht	35.6635

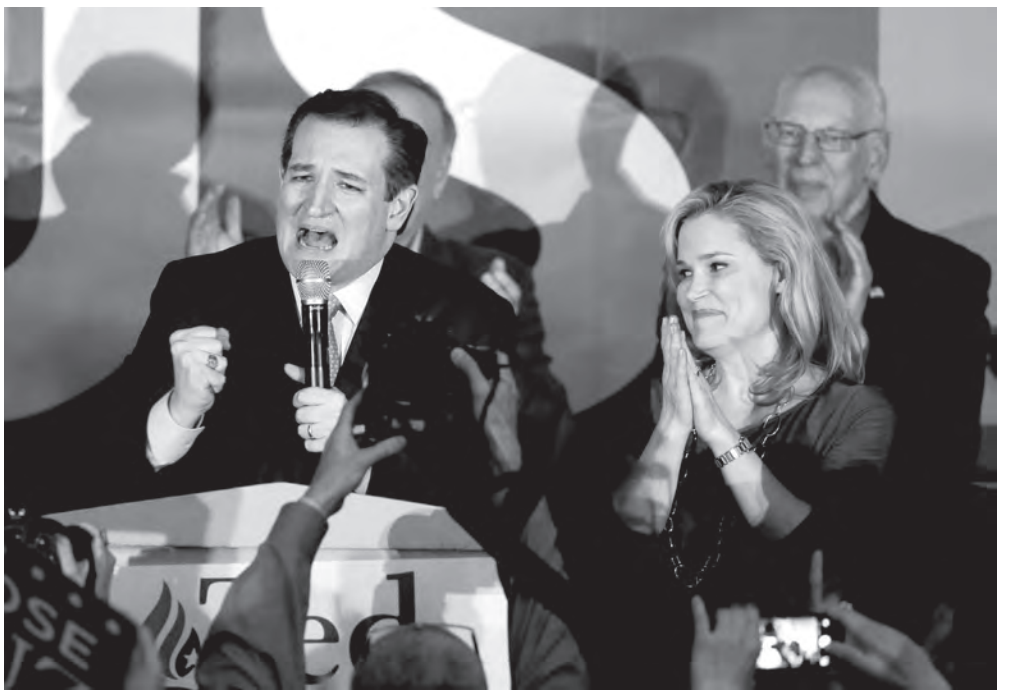
Nation

Cruz tops Trump in Iowa; Clinton, Sanders in tight Dem race

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a fiery conservative loathed by his own party's leaders, swept to victory in Iowa's Republican caucuses Monday, overcoming billionaire Donald Trump and a stronger-than-expected showing by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Among Democrats, Bernie Sanders rode a wave of voter enthusiasm to a virtual tie with Hillary Clinton, long considered her party's front-runner.

Cruz's victory over Trump was a testament to his massive get-out-the-vote operation in Iowa and the months he spent wooing the state's influential conservative and evangelical leaders.

"Iowa has sent notice that the Republican nominee and next president of the United States will not be chosen by the media, will not be chosen by the Washington establishment," Cruz said.



AP

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks during a caucus night rally as his wife Heidi listens Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, in Des Moines, Iowa.

His comments were echoed by Sanders, underscoring the degree to which voter frustration with the political system has crossed party lines in the 2016 campaign.

"It is too late for establishment politics and establishment economics," said Sanders, who declared the Democratic race a "virtual tie."

Clinton took the stage at her own campaign rally saying she was "breathing a big sigh of relief" but with the Democratic race too close to call. Aware that even a slim victory over Sanders would reinvigorate questions about her candidacy, she foresaw a long race to come.

"It is rare that we have the opportunity we do now, to have a real contest of ideas, to really think hard about what the Democratic Party stands for and what we want the future of our country to look like," Clinton said.

Trump has shaken the Republican Party perhaps more than any other candidate, though he was unable to turn his legion of fans into an Iowa victory.

He sounded humble in defeat, saying he was "honored" by the support of Iowans. And he vowed to keep up his fight for the Republican nomination.

"We will go on to easily beat Hillary or Bernie or whoever the hell they throw up," Trump told cheering supporters.

For Clinton's supporters, the tight race with Sanders was sure to bring back painful memories of her loss to Barack Obama in 2008. Her campaign spent nearly a year building a get-out-the-vote operation in Iowa yet still seemed to be caught off guard by the enthusiasm surrounding Sanders.

A self-declared democratic socialist from Vermont, Sanders drew large, youthful crowds across the state with his calls for breaking up big Wall Street banks and his fierce opposition to a campaign finance system that he says is rigged for the wealthy.

Cruz modeled his campaign after past Iowa Republican winners, visiting all of the state's 99 counties and courting evangelical and conservative leaders. While candidates with that portfolio have often faded later in the primary season, Cruz hopes to ride his momentum to the nomination.

Trump took second place, but Rubio, favored by more mainstream Republicans, gave him a battle even for that.

"We have taken the first step, but an important step, to winning the nomination," Rubio said at a campaign rally in Des Moines.

Sheriff: Fugitives had outside aid, kidnapped cab driver

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Three inmates who pulled off an intricate getaway from a California jail had outside help from a man who slipped them escape tools and gave them a ride to safety before they kidnapped a taxi driver at gunpoint and held him captive for a week while arguing over whether to kill him, authorities said Monday.

The details emerged at news conferences by prosecutors and the Sheriff's Department that answered many of the remaining questions surrounding the escape and eight-day manhunt that ended with the capture of all three fugitives.

Hossein Nayeri, who was awaiting trial on charges of torture and kidnapping, planned the escape for five months before co-conspirator Bac Duong was booked into Central Men's Jail in Orange County in December and helped with an outside contact, sheriff's Capt. Jeff Hallock said.

Jonathan Tieu, who was awaiting trial on a gang-related murder charge, also joined the plot, authorities said.

"This took a while," Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens said. "To defeat these security systems, to defeat these metal grates, to defeat these 1-inch bars, it took some time."

Once out, the three were picked up by an accomplice and driven to safety.

That night, Duong kidnapped a taxi driver at gunpoint and stole a van the following day in Los Angeles, authorities said.

The fugitives and the cab driver spent three nights at a motel in Southern California before they drove 400 miles north to the San Francisco Bay Area in the taxi and van.

Nayeri and Duong later had a fist fight in a San Jose motel room over whether to kill the taxi driver, Hallock said. Nayeri wanted to kill the cab driver and Duong did not, authorities believe.

When Nayeri and Tieu left to get the van's windows tinted later the next day, Duong drove back to Southern California with the cab driver and surrendered Friday at an auto repair shop in Orange County just miles from the jail.

Nayeri and Tieu were arrested Saturday in San Francisco after a man spotted the stolen van near a Whole Foods Market parking lot.

Prosecutors said Monday they would not charge a teacher at the jail who sheriff's investigators suspect of helping Nayeri, an Iranian-born former Marine.

As part of his plan, Nayeri cultivated a relationship with 44-year-old Nooshafarin Ravaghi, an Iranian-born woman who taught English as a second language to jail inmates, authorities said.

Bright college teens held in death of 'awesome little girl'

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Two Virginia Tech students who had bright futures appeared before a judge Monday in the death of a seventh-grade girl who was active on social media and apparently climbed out her bedroom window.

Nicole Madison Lovell, 13, was described as "an awesome little girl" who had a tough life—she survived a liver transplant as a youngster and suffered from bullying at middle school and online, her mother said.

Police found her body on Saturday, four days after she disappeared. David Eisenhauer, 18, is charged with her kidnapping and first-degree murder. Natalie Keepers, 19, is charged with improper disposal of a body and accessory after the fact in the commission of a felony.

Police in Blacksburg, Va., said they have evidence showing Eisenhauer knew the girl before she disappeared, but have not released any details about what led up to her death.

"Eisenhauer used this relationship to his advantage to abduct the 13-year-old and then kill her. Keepers helped Eisenhauer dispose of Nicole's body," a police statement said.

Eisenhauer's hearing happened ahead of schedule and out of sight of reporters on Monday. Keepers appeared later, handcuffed and shackled in an orange jumpsuit. She told Judge Robert Viar Jr. she understands the charges. Both have lawyers; neither one commented.

The arrests of the engineering majors shocked people who knew them in high school, where they lived nearby each other in Maryland. Neither had prior criminal records, police said.

"We had no reason to think he would be unsuccessful in his goals, because he was very focused," said Principal James LeMon at Wilde Lake High School, where Eisenhauer graduated last year.

Eisenhauer, named Boys Indoor Track Performer of the Year by The Baltimore Sun last March, chose Virginia Tech to pursue engineering while competing with the Hokies' top college runners, LeMon said.

Keepers interned at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, led science experiments at her church's Bible school and hoped to build a future in aerospace or ocean engineering, her online resume said.

"It's just very, very surprising," said her principal, Marcia Leonard.

Nicole's family said they discovered Wednesday morning that she had apparently blocked her bedroom door with furniture and climbed out a window overnight.

Eisenhauer was arrested Saturday, hours before Nicole's remains were found in Surry County, North Carolina, a two-hour drive from campus. Blacksburg police Chief Anthony Wilson told The Roanoke Times that Eisenhauer did not provide information that led to the body.

State police divers have been searching a pond on campus, but authorities would not say what they were looking for.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pennsylvania groundhog set to 'predict' whether winter ends

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP)—The handlers of Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog are set to predict whether we'll have early spring-like weather or have to suffer through the end of winter. Members of Punxsutawney Phil's top hat-wearing inner circle plan to reveal their forecast at sunrise, just before 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. A German legend has it that if a furry rodent sees his shadow on Feb. 2, winter will last an additional six weeks. If not, spring comes early. In reality, Phil's "prediction" is decided ahead of time by the group on Gobbler's Knob. The tiny hill is located just outside the town of Punxsutawney, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Records going back to 1887 have Phil forecasting more winter 102 times while forecasting an early spring just 17 times. There are no records for the remaining years.

3 arrested in deadly shooting at Seattle homeless encampment

SEATTLE (AP)—Police say three teenagers have been arrested in connection with the shooting at a Seattle homeless encampment last week that left 2 people dead and three others wounded. Seattle police say the suspects, ages 13, 16 and 17, were arrested Monday afternoon in Seattle. No further information about the arrests was immediately available. Shooting erupted on the evening of Jan. 26 at a homeless encampment known as 'The Jungle.' Police have said they believe the fatal shooting stemmed from a drug-dealing dispute. The two people killed in the incident have been identified as 45-year-old Jeannine L. Zapata and 33-year-old James Q. Tran. Harborview Medical Center spokeswoman Susan Gregg said Monday those wounded remain at the hospital with a man and woman in satisfactory condition. She said the other woman wants to keep her condition private.

Asia

New democratic era dawning in Myanmar

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Led by a triumphant Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar is preparing to take a historic leap into uncharted territory, having only known democracy for 14 of its 1,000 years of recorded history. Suu Kyi, who scored a stunning victory in last year's elections, follows a procession of absolute monarchs, British colonial rulers and home-bred generals who are still standing tall in the wings.

The new era dawns April 1, when Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, which captured nearly 80 percent of the contested parliamentary seats, takes over power from a military-dominated regime and attempts to shed decades of political oppression, civil war and economic ruin in this resource-blessed Southeast Asian nation once hailed as the continent's rising star.

What happens next is being touted as "a political and economic renaissance" or, as one local editorial predicted, "Myanmar's best year yet." But others fear the victors, having spent much of their lives as opposition activists and prisoners rather than in government, may, as the Burmese proverb goes, simply be "overwhelmed by 16,000 problems."

Among them, the NLD faces the world's longest running insurgency by Myanmar's ethnic minorities with tens of thousands still under arms and deeply distrustful of the central government and a military that will continue to control the country's civil administration, three key ministries, 25 percent of the seats in Parliament and economic holdings amassed during its half-century in power.

"The NLD victory is just one step in Myanmar's democratic process, not a major turning point," said Yan Myo Thein, a veteran analyst and former political prisoner.

Adding to its woes, Myanmar falls among the world's poorest countries with abysmal education and health systems and is burdened with pervasive corruption. It ranks 147 among 168 countries on Transparency International's latest global corruption index.

The new government will also have to re-order its relationship with China, formerly a staunch supporter of the generals, deciding how far it can risk alienating its powerful neighbor by veering toward the United States and Europe and curbing ravages Chinese companies are inflicting on Myanmar's environment.

Thai authorities say fishing industry crackdown intensified

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand, which faces possible trade sanctions over abuses in its seafood industry, says it has accelerated its fight against human trafficking and unregulated fishing.

Deputy national police chief Thammasak Witcharaya said Monday that in the eight months since a task force was set up to combat fishing industry abuses, it has investigated 36 cases, arrested 102 suspects and rescued 130 presumed trafficking victims. In the 16 months prior to that, only 15 cases were investigated. Trafficking victims in the fishing industry sometimes work in slavery-like conditions.

The EU has warned Thailand, the world's third-largest exporter of seafood, that its seafood may be banned if it fails to institute effective measures against unregulated fishing. The U.S. has called for stronger measures against human trafficking. It has put Thailand on a blacklist of countries that fail to meet the minimum standards in combating trafficking but has opted for now not to impose sanctions on its longtime ally.

Thammasak said nearly all of the suspects were prosecuted and two-thirds were sent to prison.

Several investigative reports by The Associated Press have focused on slavery in the seafood industry and resulted in the rescue of 2,000 men last year, highlighting longstanding abuses in Thai fisheries.

Thailand's military government in May 2014 established a Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing, headed by its navy chief, to coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking and unregulated fishing. It acted after scores of bodies were found buried in abandoned camps in the jungles on its southern border with Malaysia, revealing a brutal network of human traffickers.

Thammasak spoke at a news conference at police headquarters in Bangkok at which officials also announced the rescue of 30 Myanmar citizens who were to be forced to work on fishing vessels.

Anti-Human Trafficking Police commander Kornchai Kaikueng said the men were rescued last Thursday from a 4-by-6 meter (13-by-20 foot) room where they were being illegally held on the southern island of Phuket. He said the raid was carried out at the request of Myanmar authorities, who were informed of the situation by four Myanmar men who escaped from a fishing vessel.

China sets up new military regions as part of reorganization

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping presided Monday over the creation of five new military regions, part of the streamlining of the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army while also signaling his firm control over the armed forces.

The north, south, east, west and central regions replace the seven previous regions. The new districts are being touted as better suited to command joint operations.

Xi presided at a ceremony at the Defense Ministry in his capacity as head of the Communist Party and government commissions overseeing the military. Wearing a high-collared olive green jacket, he presented PLA flags to each of the new region's commanders and political commissars.

"Each military region must be ready to command troops and fight at any time," Xi said. Reinforcing that the military is ultimately loyal to the party, rather than the Chinese state, Xi called on commanders to "unshakably listen to the party's command and hold fast to the party's absolute leadership over the armed forces."

Xi's overhaul aims to make the PLA more effective as a modern fighting force by transforming it from one structured around the ground forces to one of joint command in which the army, navy, air and missile forces all have equal representation.

Last month, Xi ordered the elimination of four headquarters responsible for staff, politics, logistics and armaments and their replacement with 15 new agencies under the direct authority of the party's Central Military Commission.

China also plans to cut 300,000 personnel from the PLA's ranks.

In its ongoing modernization drive, the military has benefited from near annual double-digit percentage increases in its budget, now the world's second largest after that of the United States.

World

WHO declares global emergency over Zika virus spread

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization declared a global emergency over the explosive spread of the Zika virus, which has been linked to birth defects in the Americas, calling it an "extraordinary event" that poses a public health threat to other parts of the world.

AP

A Sucre municipality worker fumigates for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes that transmit the Zika virus in the Petare neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Feb. 1, 2016. Venezuela

The U.N. agency took the rare step despite a lack of definitive evidence proving the mosquito-borne virus is causing a surge in babies born with brain defects and abnormally small heads in Brazil and following a 2013-14 outbreak in French Polynesia.

Monday's emergency meeting of independent experts was called in response to the spike in babies born with microcephaly in Brazil since the virus was first found there last year. Officials in French Polynesia also documented a connection between Zika and neurological complications when the virus was spreading there two years ago, at the same time as dengue fever.

"After a review of the evidence, the committee advised that the clusters of microcephaly and other neurological complications constitute an extraordinary event and public health threat to other parts of the world," WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said.

WHO, which was widely criticized for its sluggish response to the 2014 Ebola crisis in West Africa, has been eager to show its responsiveness this time. Despite dire warnings that Ebola was out of control in mid-2014, WHO didn't declare an emergency until months later, after nearly 1,000 people had died.

"If indeed, the scientific linkage between Zika and microcephaly is established, can you imagine if we do not do all this work now and wait until the scientific evidence comes out?" Chan said. "Then people will say, 'Why didn't you take action?'"

WHO estimates there could be up to 4 million cases of Zika in the Americas in the next year, but no recommendations were made to restrict travel or trade.

As children die reaching for Europe's shores, empathy fades

PARIS (AP)—Five months ago, a 3-year-old Syrian boy's corpse on a Turkish beach galvanized public action for refugees. Now, strikingly similar images are generating little more than a collective shrug.

It's partly about timing, circumstance and the exceptional power of last September's photos of Aylan Kurdi.

But it's also because sensitivities are growing dull. Boats arrive on Europe's shores daily, or sink on the way—like the one that capsized off Turkey's coast on Saturday, killing at least 37 people including babies and other young children.

Images from the latest tragedy, including the bodies of children, failed to generate the same level of shock.

Fears—that refugees will stage extremist attacks or molest women—threaten to displace compassion. And Europe has yet to find the magic solution to its migrant dilemma.

"The public seems to be kind of immunized. They don't want to see it anymore," said Melissa Fleming, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Some are rebelling against the numbness. Greek soccer players held a sit-in solidarity protest after the latest refugee drownings. Artist Ai Weiwei, wanting kinder migrant policies, re-enacted Aylan's death.

The photos of Aylan weren't the first or last to document the fatal risk that families take to flee Syria's war for something better in Europe. But his lifeless, tidily-dressed body—first face-down on the sand, later in the arms of a police officer—captured the collective imagination like no other.

Britain approves controversial gene-editing experiments

LONDON (AP)—In a landmark decision that some ethicists warned is a step down the path toward "designer babies," Britain gave scientists approval Monday to conduct gene-editing experiments on human embryos.

The researchers won't be creating babies—the modified embryos will be destroyed after seven days. Instead, they said, the goal is to better understand human development so as to improve fertility treatments and prevent miscarriages.

The decision by Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority marks the first time a county's national regulator has approved the technique. Permission isn't explicitly required in many other countries, including the U.S. and China. The U.S. does not allow the use of federal funds for embryo modification, but there is no outright ban on gene editing.

Gene editing involves deleting, repairing or replacing bits of DNA inside living cells in a biological cut-and-paste technique that scientists say could one day lead to treatments for conditions like HIV or inherited disorders such as muscular dystrophy and sickle cell disease.

A team led by Kathy Niakan, an embryo and stem cell specialist at London's new Francis Crick Institute, received the OK to use gene editing to analyze the first week of an embryo's growth.

The research will "enhance our understanding of IVF (in vitro fertilization) success rates by looking at the very earliest stage of human development," said Paul Nurse, director of the institute.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Have a garden plan that includes good bones

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Beverly Martin is proud of the love she has for nature because it follows in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother who taught her to appreciate all things beautiful outdoors.

"My mother created a beautiful garden carving out beds on a heavily shaded, root riddled rocky slope," says Martin, who lives and gardens in southeastern Virginia. She's also the landscape design consultant for Countryside Gardens in Hampton, Va.— http://countrysidegardens.biz

"Of course we kids were enlisted to help, weeding and digging, and we each learned a bit in the process. I did not fully appreciate her efforts till I had a place to call my own.

"I made all the mistakes young homebuyers still make today. Purchasing only flowers to start out, not amending the soil, narrow beds, planting things too close together."

While stationed in England, Martin fell in love with the English landscapes-and decided one day she would study landscape design.

Back in the United States, Martin fulfilled her dream to study landscaping design, and earned a landscape design certificate at the University of Richmond.

Gardening philosophy

"I believe it is a civic duty to maintain your property in a way that is beneficial to the environment," says Martin.

MCT

Beverly Martin is a landscape design consultant at Countryside Gardens in Hampton, Va.

"If you can add beauty to your neighborhood and increase neighborhood pride at the same time, why wouldn't you?"

10 Landscape Design Tips

■ Start with the basics. Make a list of your wants and assess your planting site, such as sun, shade, soil, drainage, wind, noise, existing features, utilities etc. Figure out what stays, what goes and what needs to be fixed.

■ Think about "bones," or structure in the garden — what will be there year-round such as trees, shrubs or larger structures.

■ Plan a backdrop, which can double as privacy or a windbreak. This is also part of the "bones." You can use shrubs, fencing or walls, basically anything that separates your space from the rest of the world and makes it your own.

■ Pick a style and carry it throughout your yard. Geometric beds, straight beds or curving bed lines? Tight clipped shrubs, topiaries or loose natural forms? Mulched paths, wooden boardwalks or brick walks? Whatever you choose, use the same materials everywhere to create harmony.

■ If you choose rounded lines, create long flowing bed lines or sweeping curves that are easier to mow around and draw you into the space.

■ Address all growing issues before choosing plants — poor soil, drainage, seasonal flooding as well as wildlife such as plant-eating deer.

■ In all spaces, large or small, plant flowers in masses of color. Color scattered everywhere creates disjointed gardens and poor visual impact.

MCT

Concrete and no landscape make for a harsh look at a home.

MCT

Sweeping, curving beds with a variety of sizes in trees and shrubs create a welcome entrance to a home.

■ Consider your surroundings. Your neighbors' landscape may affect yours — tree roots, drainage, shade or view. If it's nice you can open up the view and create the illusion that it's part of yours; If not use your landscape to hide it.

■ Use focal points to catch the eye and draw you in. You can't go wrong with a bench, birdbath or tasteful small fountain; however, too many 'focal points'—and by this I mean garden tchotchkes—can trash up your yard and make it look like a flea market. If you must have tchotchkes a good rule of thumb is only one should be visible from any location in the garden at a time.

■ Include paths with purpose. Paths are great to get you from point A to point B in the landscape, but a path that goes nowhere is a disappointment to visitors. Put something special at the destination.

5 Mistakes and Fixes

Mistakes homeowners often make and how to correct them:

■ Not having a plan—leads to buying plants on a whim, which ends up wasting time and money. Start with a plan in mind.

■ Not adding structure—"bones"—to the garden first. While it's more fun to purchase all the pretty flowers a landscape without structure is just a flowerbed. Start with a plan in mind.

■ Not thinking big enough, whether it be the size of the planting beds or the size of the plants they purchase. Going small shows a lack of confidence. Confidence comes with experience if you don't have it, find a professional you trust who does and work with them.

■ Buying quantity vs. quality or over buying (over planting)—an overplanted landscape requires significantly more maintenance. Plan your plantings according to how big the plants will get—and remember if plants are happy they continue to grow. Having a plan ensures you won't end up with a lot of plants you don't really want or have room for.

■ Buying just flowers because they're pretty—this results in a naked yard in winter. Enjoyable, eye-catching landscapes look good all year, and include trees, shrubs and perennials for fall and winter displays.

■ Not being realistic about how much time will be devoted to landscape maintenance. Combine multiple small beds into one large bed for easier mowing and edging. Start beds with trees and blooming shrubs—they're easier to maintain than fussy flowerbeds.

Message of Appreciation

†Aurelio Torres Mendiola

Lovingly known as "Lolong"

On behalf of my children and myself, I would like to extend our praise and acceptance of the will of our Lord Almighty. May our loved one find solace and peace in the arms of our Savior and rejoice his new life.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our friends and family for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist in honor of our beloved †**Aurelio Torres Mendiola**, lovingly known as Lolong. Your prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and difficult. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank You & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase

Asuncion "Connie" Pangelinan Mendiola, and my children: Patrick, Anthony, Allen, Melda, Andrew and Families.

Life & Style

For the world's most scrutinized body, Barbie has a new look

AP
This photo provided by Mattel shows a group of new Barbie dolls introduced in January 2016. Mattel, the maker of the famous plastic doll, said it will start selling Barbie's in three new body types: tall, curvy and petite.

NEW YORK (AP)—Poor Barbie. She had plastic surgery to become more socially acceptable. But a lot of her critics still don't like her.

Barbie's manufacturer, Mattel, announced Thursday that the doll has three new body types—curvy, tall and petite. Barbie will also now come in seven skin tones, 22 eye colors and 24 hairstyles. Mattel spokeswoman Michelle Chidoni said the product is evolving to "offer more choices" to make "the line more reflective of the world girls see around them."

But Kris Macomber, who teaches sociology at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina, says she's "reluctant to celebrate Barbie's new strategy because it doesn't change the fact that Barbie dolls and other kinds of fashion dolls still over-emphasize female beauty. Sure, all body types should be valued. And, sure, all skin colors should be valued equally. But why must we keep sending girls the message that being beautiful is so important?"

Josh Golin, executive director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, said Barbie's changes are a testament to activists who for years have challenged her "unrealistic and harmful body type." But body type "was only one of the criticisms," he said. "The other was the brand's relentless focus on appearance and fashion."

Kumea Shorter-Gooden, co-author of "Shifting: The Double Lives of Black Women in America," has said in the past that Barbie has a bigger impact on black girls struggling with messages about skin color and hair. Shorter-Gooden applauded Mattel "for diversifying the size and look of Barbie," but noted that "European-American hair still prevails," and that the dolls' outfits still "convey a traditional and constraining gender norm about how girls and women should look."

Aside from whether Barbie's looks will ever measure up to society's changing expectations, another question worth asking is whether kids still want to play with Barbies. Barbie sales fell 14 percent in the most recently reported quarter, with worldwide sales falling every year since 2012. A study by BAV Consulting found that consumers perceive the Barbie brand as being "less relevant" than 80 percent of 3,500 brands in 200 categories BAV studied. BAV's data analysis also found that consumers perceive Barbie as being in the bottom third of all brands when it comes to social responsibility but in the top 2 percent when it comes to being traditional.

Mattel said it will still sell the original 11.5-inch Barbie. The new versions will begin arriving on U.S. store shelves in March and will roll out globally after that. They are available for preorder at shop.mattel.com, and will ship in February.

Quiana Agbai, an African-American mother of two who has written about "the effects of dolls not looking like my 5-year-old daughter" on her blog, www.harlemlovebirds.com, said Barbie's new look is "a step in the right direction" but noted that "there are brands already filling this need in greater detail." Agbai's husband's family is Nigerian, so she found a Nigerian princess doll for her daughter from a line called Queens of Africa. Agbai herself grew up playing with the American Girl doll Addy, whose story line involved escaping from slavery.

Some, however, saluted the new Barbie wholeheartedly.

The many new faces of Barbie

Mattel is launching more diverse looks for Barbie. Its lineup of Barbie dolls for this year has seven skin tones and 22 eye colors.

Shades of Barbie

Source: Mattel

Graphic: Lorena Iñiguez Elebee Los Angeles Times/TNS

First Year Death Anniversary

†ARTURO
CABALES TRAVILLA
"ART"

We, the family of the late +Art would like to invite our friends and relatives to join us in prayer for our dearly beloved to forever rest in life everlasting.

Daily mass will be offered at San Antonio Church beginning February 1st to February 9th , 2016 at 6:00p.m.

On the final night of mass, February 9th, dinner will be served at Travilla Residence.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much!

From the Family.

Eric Church, Chris Stapleton lead ACM nominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Eric Church and Chris Stapleton lead the nominees for the 51st annual Academy of Country Music Awards with five nominations each, including male vocalist and album of the year.

In nominations announced Monday, Church earned a first-time nod for entertainer of the year, along with Jason Aldean, Garth Brooks, Luke Bryan—co-hosting the show with Dierks Bentley—and Miranda Lambert. Church also earned nominations for video of the year for "Mr. Misunderstood," and vocal event of the year for "Raise 'Em Up" with Keith Urban.

Bryan and Blake Shelton, who got shut out of nominations this year, had been co-hosts of the show since 2013, but Bentley, who helped announce the nominees on "CBS This Morning," took Shelton's spot as co-host this year.

"It's great having a co-host that's already been there," Bentley said Monday. "He can kind of give me some pointers along the way. It's a big deal hosting one of these things. You've got to be part, you know, comedian, part entertainer, part historian, and it's a tough gig but I love challenges, and I've never done it before so it felt like the right time to do it."

Stapleton earned two nominations for album of the year category for his "Traveller," as both artist and co-producer. Chris Young, Thomas Rhett and Sam Hunt are also nominated for album of the year. Stapleton, 2015's breakout country artist with four Grammy nominations, also earned nominations for new male vocalist of the year and vocal event of the year for "Hangover Tonight" with Gary Allan.

Bentley, Aldean and Brett Eldredge also are vying for male vocalist. Bentley, who also earned a nomination for video of the year for "Riser," said he thought the only reason he was invited to announce the nominees was because he was the new co-host.

"I was talking to my wife a couple days ago and I was like, 'I assume I'm just coming up there because I'm co-hosting the ACMs, that's probably why I'm up here, you know?'" Bentley said. "... Then I thought, 'Well, maybe I am nominated for male vocalist of the year? Maybe that's why they're asking me to come all the way up here to New York.'"

Lambert, who earned three nominations overall, earned her 10th consecutive nod for female vocalist of the year; she'll compete against Carrie Underwood, Kacey Musgraves, Kelsea Ballerini and Jana Kramer.

First-time ACM nominee Cam received four nominations, including new female vocalist and video of the year for "Burning House." The single also earned Cam a dual nomination for artist and producer in the single record of the year category.

Singer Chris Young also received four nominations, for his work as artist and co-producer on his latest album, "I'm Comin' Over," and for single record of the year for the album's title song, which

"Obviously, I did not expect to see a number four next to that," Young said. "It's the first time I have had multiple nominations and first time I have been nominated for anything as a producer. It's really, really cool."

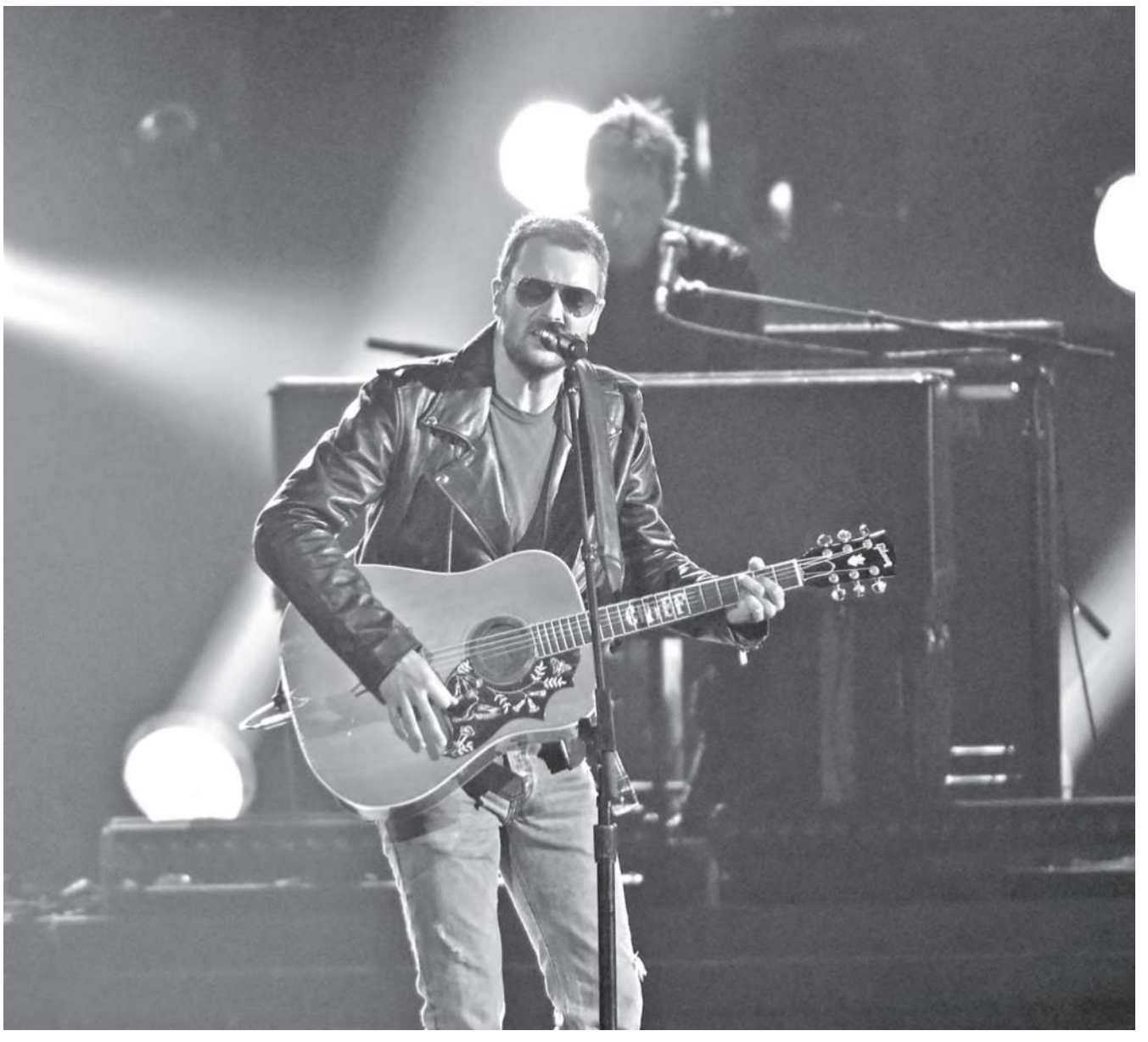
Little Big Town earned a 10th nomination for vocal group of the year, as well as nominations for single record of the year and video of the year for "Girl Crush." As a group, they also earned a nomination for vocal event of the year for "Smokin' And Drinkin'" with Miranda Lambert, while singer Karen Fairchild received an individual nomination in the same category for "Home Alone Tonight" with Luke Bryan. Eli Young Band, Old Dominion and Rascal Flatts all earned nominations for vocal group of the year.

New singer Chris Janson earned three nominations for his work as artist and co-producer on "Buy Me a Boat," up for single record of the year, and for new male vocalist. Rhett earned his first album of the year nomination for "Tangled Up," as well as nods for his No. 1 hit, "Die a Happy Man," for single record of the year and new male vocalist of the year.

In the vocal duo category, wife and husband duo Joey + Rory earned a nomination as Joey Feek is struggling with terminal cancer. Also nominated in that category were Brothers Osborne, Florida Georgia Line, Dan + Shay and Maddie & Tae.

Song of the year, songwriter of the year and other industry categories will be announced at a later date.

The awards air live from Las Vegas on April 3 at 8:00 PM EDT on CBS.



AP

In this Nov. 4, 2015, file photo, Eric Church performs at the 49th annual CMA Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

Cosby due in court as lawyers push to get charges dropped

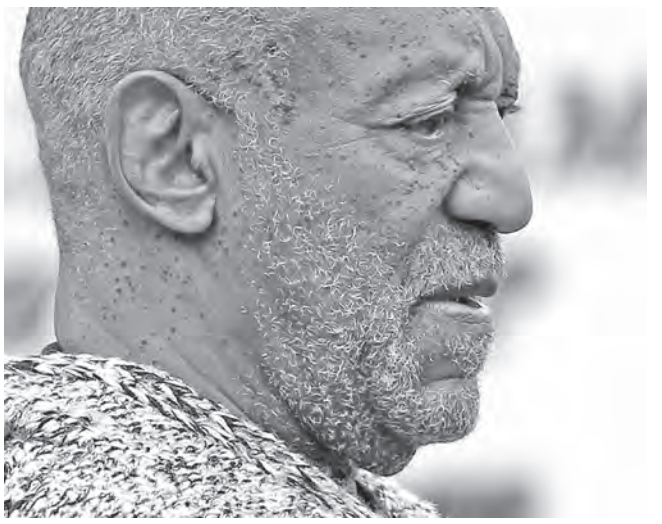
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers will ask a judge to throw out the only criminal case lodged against the TV star from the dozens of accusations that he molested women.

The defense will argue that Cosby had a deal with a suburban Philadelphia prosecutor in 2005 that he wouldn't be prosecuted and should testify freely in accuser Andrea Constand's civil lawsuit.

That testimony, released only last year, prompted Castor's successors to reopen the case and ultimately charge the 78-year-old Cosby with felony sexual assault. Cosby has not yet entered a plea.

Cosby admitted in the deposition that he had a series of affairs with young models and actresses; had obtained quaaludes to give women before sex; and gave accuser Andrea Constand three pills before a January 2004 encounter at his home. He called it consensual but she said she was drugged and violated.

In an unusual twist, former Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. is slated to be the defense's key witness on Tuesday. Castor insists that he forged an oral "non-prosecution" agreement in 2005 with Walter M. Phillips Jr., a Cosby lawyer who died last year.



AP

In this Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015, file photo, Bill Cosby leaves the Cheltenham Township Police Department where he was processed after being arraigned on a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault in Elkins Park, Pa.

It's not clear if anyone can corroborate Castor's account. However, Temple University board chairman Patrick O'Connor represented Cosby at the deposition. He still represents Cosby in some civil matters.

Anne Poulin, a law professor at Villanova University, said those involved in the case probably would want to hear from O'Connor "on the theory that, certainly as the lawyer representing Cosby in the civil case, he therefore needed to know what (Cosby's) exposure was to criminal prosecution before he was deposed."

Poulin believes the defense has a high bar to meet to get the case thrown out early on. At the same time, she said, "if they can win without this ever going to trial, then they've done their client a big service."

Kevin Steele, the new county district attorney, believes Cosby needed an immunity agreement—in writing—to avoid prosecution. He has said he has no evidence that one exists.

"I never made a deal that involved criminal cases that was not in writing," Lynne Abraham, a longtime judge and district attorney in Philadelphia, said Monday. "This is, to me, is an extremely unusual arrangement because the prosecutor, Bruce, has made a deal not involving a criminal case, but a civil matter."

The lawyer who served as Castor's top assistant in 2005 could also be called to testify.

Risa Vetri Ferman, now a county judge, worked on the Constand case before succeeding Castor as district attorney in 2008. She reopened the complaint last fall, asking Castor to submit any documentation of the supposed deal.

Castor pointed to a 2005 press release about his decision not to prosecute Cosby.

Steele defeated Castor in the November election to succeed Ferman. He believes that Cosby needs a written immunity deal to get the case thrown out.

It's not immediately clear when Common Pleas Judge Steven T. O'Neill will rule.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they agree to have their names published, as Constand has done.

Besting Bowie and Adele, Panic! at the Disco hits No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Debuting at No. 1 is certainly an accomplishment, but bumping artists like David Bowie and Adele down the music charts has Panic! at the Disco's Brendon Urie simply gobsmacked.

"That's insane. I mean, to be in same sentence as anyone like that—I'm not worthy," Urie said. "I was just floored!"

"Death of a Bachelor," released last month, topped the Billboard 200 chart and sold 190,000 equivalent albums in its first week, according to Nielsen Music.

It's the fifth album and first No. 1 for Panic!, of which Urie is the only remaining original member after his band mates decided to leave the group over the years.

But the 28-year-old vocalist is loving life as a solo act. He co-wrote the album's songs and plays most of the instruments on the pop-rock project.

"It's amazing because I don't have to compromise or I don't have to argue as much," he said.

In an interview last week with The Associated Press, Urie discussed doing things his way on "Death of a Bachelor," touring with Weezer and his eclectic inspirations, from Beyoncé to Frank Sinatra.

AP: What did you think when you heard you knocked Bowie's album from the top spot?

Urie: I'm conflicted about it. I'm happy, but man, just losing a legend, yeah, I mean, that's unreal but I'm glad that at least I had a chance to pop in there, get on people's radar. David Bowie had so many hits, too; it's not like I'm hurting his career by any means.

AP: How confident were you about your solo debut?

Urie: There's always nerves when you're releasing something. These are all very personal to me. Every song is autobiographical. It's about something I experienced or want to experience, so it's all very close to my heart.

AP: Who were some of your inspirations on the album?

Urie: Queen, Bruce Springsteen. ...There's a pretty good, in my opinion, a good mash up of Beyoncé and Sinatra on the title track. ...I wrote the song actually trying to make a Sinatra song ...and then I hit this wall, just writing-wise, where I was getting so frustrated. ...So I took a break from it and went back to this beat I had worked on like months before and it kind of had this 'Drunk in Love,' Beyoncé-kind of feel. ...It was just like a happy accident.

AP: Has Beyoncé heard the track?

Urie: I wonder. I doubt it, but I would love to show her (and say), 'You inspired this, Queen B!'

AP: What can fans expect from your summer tour with Weezer?

Urie: That is really crazy to say. Anytime I say it, it doesn't feel real. I don't think it's gonna feel real until the first week of the tour where we've established set times and hang out. ...But knowing that we're going to be touring together was just like my childhood fantasies come true. ...Ten-year-old me would just be crying right now, flipping out, ecstatic. I might cry (onstage). No promises, but maybe.

AP

Brendon Urie, of Panic! At The Disco, poses for a portrait on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016, in Los Angeles to promote his latest album, "Death of a Bachelor," released on Jan. 16.

Box Office Top 20: 'Kung Fu Panda 3' dethrones 'Revenant'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Kung Fu Panda 3" punched "The Revenant" back to its second place spot over the weekend. The animated sequel brought in a robust $41.3 million—which is a franchise low, but nonetheless a healthy showing in a generally slow time of the year at the box office. "Kung Fu Panda 3" will also have animated family film territory to itself until "Zootopia" opens in March.

In second place, "The Revenant" added $12.8 million to its total, and in third place, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" earned $11.1 million.

Other new openers were not so lucky. Disney's live-action Coast Guard adventure pic "The Finest Hours" opened in fourth place with $10.3 million, while the parody film "Fifty Shades of Black" debuted in tenth place with a mere $5.9 million. The saddest of the bunch, though, was the beleaguered Natalie Portman-led Western "Jane Got a Gun" which opened to a measly $835,572 from 1,210 locations.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Rentrak:

1. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** 20th Century Fox, $41,282,042, 3,955 locations, $10,438 average, $41,282,042, 1 week.
2. **"The Revenant,"** 20th Century Fox, $12,779,530, 3,330 locations, $3,838 average, $138,550,898, 6 weeks.
3. **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens,"** Disney, $11,116,684, 2,556 locations, $4,349 average, $895,760,846, 7 weeks.
4. **"The Finest Hours,"** Disney, $10,288,932, 3,143 locations, $3,274 average, $10,288,932, 1 week.
5. **"Ride Along 2,"** Universal, $8,426,610, 2,412 locations, $3,494 average, $70,856,300, 3 weeks.
6. **"Dirty Grandpa,"** Lionsgate, $7,591,049, 2,912 locations, $2,607 average, $22,837,059, 2 weeks.
7. **"The Boy,"** STX Entertainment, $7,551,388, 2,671 locations, $2,827 average, $21,185,304, 2 weeks.
8. **"The 5th Wave,"** Sony, $7,142,826, 2,908 locations, $2,456 average, $20,330,975, 2 weeks.
9. **"13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers Of Benghazi,"** Paramount, $6,274,244, 2,803 locations, $2,238 average, $42,848,089, 3 weeks.
10. **"Fifty Shades Of Black,"** Open Road, $5,900,528, 2,075 locations, $2,844 average, $5,900,528, 1 week.
11. **"The Big Short,"** Paramount, $3,063,220, 983 locations, $3,116 average, $60,963,697, 8 weeks.
12. **"Daddy's Home,"** Paramount, $3,056,042, 1,718 locations, $1,779 average, $143,036,385, 6 weeks.
13. **"MET Opera: Turandot (2016),"** Fathom Events, $2,500,000, 900 locations, $2,778 average, $2,500,000, 1 week.
14. **"Brooklyn,"** Fox Searchlight, $1,761,149, 748 locations, $2,354 average, $30,432,320, 13 weeks.
15. **"Room,"** A24 Films, $1,236,878, 795 locations, $1,556 average, $9,901,663, 16 weeks.
16. **"Spotlight,"** Open Road, $1,200,039, 715 locations, $1,678 average, $34,765,827, 13 weeks.
17. **"Norm Of The North,"** Lionsgate, $972,321, 1,506 locations, $646 average, $15,964,838, 3 weeks.
18. **"Jane Got A Gun,"** The Weinstein Company, $835,572, 1,210 locations, $691 average, $835,572, 1 week.
19. **"The Hateful Eight,"** The Weinstein Company, $719,694, 505 locations, $1,425 average, $52,368,676, 6 weeks.
20. **"Sisters,"** Universal, $646,485, 529 locations, $1,222 average, $86,119,480, 7 weeks.

Woman on egg donor registry need not volunteer her status

DEAR ABBY: I recently decided that I wanted to help an infertile couple conceive by becoming an egg donor. I'm well-educated and have a job I love. I understand the commitment both time-wise and emotionally. I am now part of a registry, and I could be selected for a donation at any time.

Like other young women, I am dating. However, I am conflicted about whether to tell my dates about my involvement with egg donation and if so, how. I understand that this is extremely personal, but at the same time I could have genetic offspring out there. Can you advise?

HELPING OUT IN BATON ROUGE

DEAR HELPING OUT: I do not think it would be appropriate to share this information with any man you are seeing casually. However, if a relationship becomes serious, you should discuss it. A way to start the conversation would be to say, "It's said that the most meaningful gift a person can give is a gift of self. Well, I have taken it literally."

DEAR ABBY: My 22-year-old daughter, a recent college graduate, is back living at home. She has been bringing her boyfriends home and having sex in her room. I have a real problem with it. There are younger children living here. My husband is not aware of what goes on behind her closed doors at night. How should I handle this?

STILL UNDER MY ROOF

DEAR STILL: If you prefer not to involve your husband in this, have a private chat with your daughter and tell her you are not comfortable with her entertaining her boyfriends in your home in the manner you have described. Tell her that if she wants to have sex, she should do it elsewhere—but not under your roof with younger children nearby. Because it's your home, your rules should apply.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend of two years was offered the opportunity to travel to Nepal for a month-long stay. Leading up to the trip I tried not to be jealous, but I did say some childish things like, "You're leaving me for a mountain?" However, before she left, I told her I knew it was a great opportunity and that she should enjoy herself.

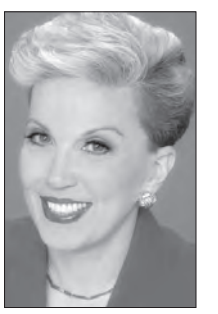
She emailed me a couple of nights ago about how she and two of her male guides went to a bar together where she got drunk. They plan on going to the club again later during the trip.

I trust my girlfriend, but I can't help but worry that she may be taken advantage of. I didn't mention my concerns and even encouraged her to go and have fun. But am I wrong to feel worried? Am I being insecure?

LEFT AT HOME IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR LEFT AT HOME: You're not wrong to feel worried. Under the circumstances, it's only normal. Does your girlfriend drink at home? And if she does, how does it affect her? At high altitudes the effects of alcohol can be magnified.

It's one thing to be open-minded and quite another to be so open-minded your brains fall out. Rather than encourage her, you should have warned her to be careful because what she did was risky. As for feeling insecure, at this point you're entitled to feel that way.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DO YOU BELIEVE OUR DESTINIES ARE CONTROLLED BY THE STARS?
NO, I THINK WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT WITH OUR LIVES.
NOT TO HEAR MOM AND DAD TELL IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SO ASK YOURSELF...
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WINNER AND A LOSER?
A WINNER DOES NOT SCREAM INTO HIS SECURITY BLANKET
OOPS
LOSER
JIM DAVIS 3-3

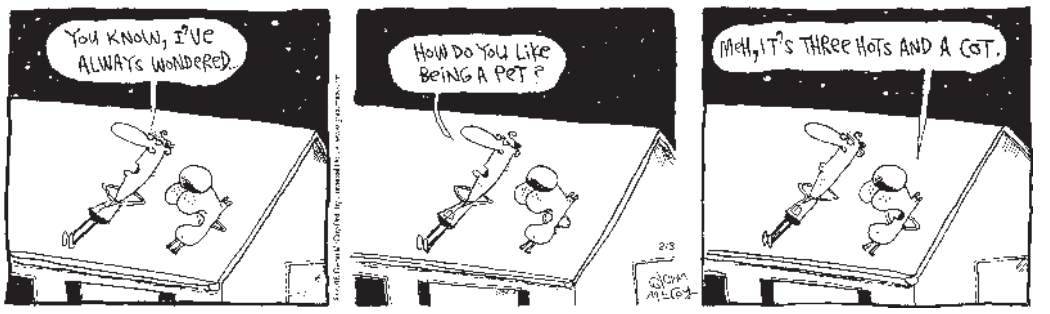
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BOY. CLAYTON IS OBSESSED WITH THAT FISHNOGGIN GUY ON YOUTUBE.
OH, TRUST ME. I KNOW.
I REALLY TRIED TO ENJOY IT WITH HIM, BUT... OOF.
IT'S JUST SO DUMB. SO... MINDLESS.
SAYS THE GUY IN THE "THREE STOOGES" BOXERS.
GASP! YOU UNCOMPARE THOSE RIGHT NOW!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bumped into
4 Spigot
7 Paddington or Smokey
8 Erect
10 Upper body sculptures
11 Loose newspaper feature
13 1967 Audrey Hepburn thriller
16 Curator's concern
17 1980s attorney general
18 Avril follower
19 Makes a choice
20 Bygone days
21 Tub sessions
23 Hide
25 Grass clump
26 Throat clearer
27 Online address
28 Defy authority
30 Here, to Henri
33 Packed only the essentials
36 Brunch fare
37 Leers at
38 Clapton and Bana
39 Yard fraction
40 Do something
41 Swing to and —

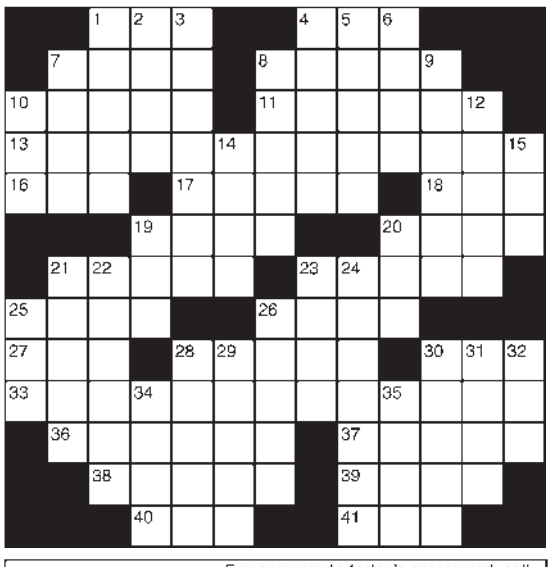
DOWN

1 Deserve
2 Right on the map
3 Big win
4 North African capital
5 Supermarket section
6 Begged
7 Sow's mate
8 Nibbles
9 Eugene O'Neill output
10 Delta's one-time rival
12 Dumpster filler
14 Tennis barriers
15 Tool set
19 Mel of baseball
20 Nonstick spray brand
21 Pack animal
22 Burning
23 Molt
24 Give a tongue-lashing
25 Ancient boy king
26 Helps a crook
28 Archaeologist's find
29 Put in office
30 Nome dome home
31 Guitarist Atkins
32 "— been real"
34 Farmiga or Wang
35 Borodin's "Prince —"

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	F	S	S	■	S	P	A	■	R	A	A	S
E	L	L	A	■	A	O	L	■	O	N	T	O
R	A	I	L	■	S	P	L	E	N	D	O	R
E	N	M	A	S	S	E	■	W	H	Y	M	E
■	■	■	M	A	Y	■	'	E	A	■	■	■
P	A	T	I	O	■	D	O	R	M	A	N	T
O	R	R	■	■	F	E	W	■	■	B	O	A
L	C	U	A	D	O	R	■	O	V	E	R	T
■	■	■	F	I	G	■	R	A	E	■	■	■
A	L	A	R	M	■	C	O	R	S	A	G	E
D	O	R	I	S	■	D	A	Y	■	S	O	T
A	V	E	C	■	A	K	A	■	E	L	B	A
M	E	S	A	■	B	E	L	■	L	U	S	T

Yesterday's answer 2-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isla Fisher, 40; Nathan Lane, 60; Morgan Fairchild, 66; Blythe Danner, 73.

Happy Birthday: Your ability to relate to others and bring peace to tumultuous situations will encourage advancement. A change regarding your reputation, status or position is favored, but will also be more time-consuming, causing exhaustion and poor relationships with those who are counting on you. Think before you make a promise that can be difficult to honor. Your numbers are 1, 9, 14, 20, 23, 31, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take charge by exhibiting discipline and embracing the changes you want to make without concern for what others think. Speaking your mind will help you gain confidence and reach your goals. You will be surprised by an offer. Get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep an open mind and you will be given privileged information that will help you get what you want. A new skill you pick up or an experience you have will make your peers take notice and help you attract a partner. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take your career seriously. Someone you work with could cause you grief. Don't waste your time arguing, as it will make you look bad and deter you from doing your job. Don't give in to bullying or blackmail. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make unusual changes at home that will surprise your friends and family and make your place the destination everyone wants to visit. A relationship you have with someone will help you expand your interests. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You are ready to take on the world. Make sure to dedicate time to being and doing the best you can. A partnership looks interesting and will provide you with some innovative ideas that will lead to good fortune. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Indulge in something that excites you. Surround yourself with people who share your curiosity. Avoid emotional situations or someone who puts too many demands on you. Re-evaluate your current living arrangements. Focus on romance, not discord. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Pick up information and learn all you can about an interest you have. Someone you encounter who is inspirational and fun to be with will improve your attitude. Avoid anyone who is trying to dictate what you can and cannot do. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can gain ground, whether traveling, learning or making an effort to raise your popularity. Your intuition will help you bring about positive changes. What you do for others will result in an unusual turn of events. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotional matters will surface if you try to evade issues or if you aren't honest about the way you feel. Your best efforts will come from home improvement projects or making adjustments to your living arrangements that will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone from your past will remind you of a dream you once pursued. Turn back the clock and update your idea to fit the current economic trends. Romance is on the rise, and making special plans for two is highlighted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change of plans will work in your favor. Check out a job offer or consider a change in your vocational direction. What you have to offer will tie in nicely to a movement that is growing in your community. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't limit what you can do. Find out what's required to pursue your dreams and pick up the skills, qualifications or education required to follow through with your plans. Someone you've worked with in the past will help you get ahead. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, disciplined and adaptable. You are helpful and proactive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	4	7					
9				2		6	5	
7			8		5			
3		8		7	1			
	5		4	8		9		
		9	2		6	3		
	7			9	2		3	5
	9					8	6	
						7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	7	9	1	3	5	4	2
5	3	2	8	7	4	9	1	6
1	4	9	2	5	6	3	8	7
4	9	3	7	2	1	6	5	8
8	7	5	6	4	9	1	2	3
2	1	6	3	8	5	7	9	4
9	2	1	4	6	7	8	3	5
3	6	8	5	9	2	4	7	1
7	5	4	1	3	8	2	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MANAGED PAYOUT MUTUAL FUNDS Solution: 6 letters

R	H	A	D	P	S	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y	I
E	E	O	P	E	O	G	A	I	N	S	Ⓢ	I	T	I
D	A	F	R	P	C	R	N	P	N	Ⓔ	E	S	I	N
E	T	R	S	I	R	I	T	I	Ⓔ	L	S	K	U	D
E	S	O	N	N	Z	E	S	Ⓕ	D	N	C	I	Q	U
M	E	E	L	I	A	O	C	I	O	L	A	L	E	S
A	L	C	D	E	N	R	N	I	O	L	O	L	S	T
R	L	I	O	A	R	G	T	T	A	N	I	H	T	R
K	I	R	S	Y	R	A	S	S	I	T	S	O	I	Y
E	N	P	E	O	U	T	N	T	E	S	I	B	F	T
T	G	N	W	T	I	R	A	C	I	V	O	O	E	R
I	O	T	C	W	U	T	M	X	E	N	N	P	N	E
M	H	U	A	T	H	S	A	C	D	E	U	I	E	N
E	L	I	E	T	U	B	I	R	T	N	O	C	B	D
F	T	R	A	C	K	M	R	E	T	T	R	O	H	S

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/3

Appreciation, Benefits, Bond, Cash, Contribute, Decisions, Deposit, Earnings, Equity, Fees, Fluctuations, Gains, Growth, Holdings, Horizon, Industry, Invest, Market, Money, Penalty, Portfolio, Price, Ratios, Redeem, Return, Selling, Short Term, Skill, Strategy, Tax, Time, Tolerance, Track, Trades, Transfer, Trends, Units, Wait, Yielding

Yesterday's Answer: Brit

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Director of Sales & Marketing. Minimum of ten (10) years Resort' Sales & Marketing management experience required. Minimum of three (3) years Executive position experience. Responsible for planning, developing and implementing Sales & Marketing strategies for all Market segments, including Russian market. Fluent English and Russian. Knowledge of CNMI Travel industry and Russian market required. E-mail resume to info@mangoresort.com. Contact Elly at (670) 989-3325 for more information.

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(1) Building & Ground Maintenance Repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau Estates at 483-9351.

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(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Knowledgeable of principles and methods of Embroidery. Multi tasking. Can work on longer hours. Good eyesight. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com.

2-H.E. Operator $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-9796. Kimco Ent. Inc.

4-Electrician $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

2-Plumber $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

3-Carpenters $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Delivery Driver (5)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: February 5, 2016

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For established small business

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- Prepare monthly BGR tax reports.
- Have thorough understanding on company Financial Statements.
- Must demonstrate excellent Word & Excel skills.
- Experience with Quick Books accounting program and S2K Series (Retalix) BPOS machine.
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
- Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- 5 years accounting experience
- Must have a 4-year accounting degree.
- On island references & police clearance required

Fax Resume to 670-235-4763 or
e-mail: deltamgt@pticom.com

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Westbrook's triple-double leads Thunder past Wizards

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook doesn't feel comfortable taking credit for his triple-doubles.

The Thunder guard had his seventh of the season, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Washington Wizards 114-98 on Monday night.

Westbrook had 17 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists and got the best of his matchup with Washington point guard John Wall. It was the 26th triple-double of Westbrook's career, and he has two straight and four in his past 10 games.

The Thunder improved to 22-4 when Westbrook accomplishes the feat.

"It means that my teammates do a great job of getting open, creating lanes where I'm able to be effective, and I'm trying to find ways to get those guys the basketball and trying to play my game," he said.

Kevin Durant scored 28 points and Serge Ibaka added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who have won 11 of 12.

Wizards coach Randy Wittman missed the game following his brother's death last Friday.

Bradley Beal came off the bench to score 18 points, Wall had 17 points and eight assists and Marcin Gortat scored 17 points for Washington, which has lost four of five.

Westbrook scored the first two baskets of the game by posting up against Wall to set the tone.

"I just try to come out on the post, use it to my advantage," Westbrook said. "That's something I try to do every night."

Oklahoma City shot 55 percent in the first half to take a 64-52 lead. Durant scored 18 points and Westbrook had 10 points, eight rebounds and seven assists before the break.

A technical was called on Durant at the end of the first half for disapproving of a no-call, so the Wizards scored their first point of the second half on a free throw before the clock even started.

The Wizards cut Oklahoma City's lead to six early in the third quarter, but the Thunder maintained control. A three-point play by Durant pushed the Thunder back ahead 79-67.

Cavaliers 111, Pacers 106

In Indianapolis, Kyrie Irving scored 25 points and LeBron James had 24 points, 12 rebounds and six assists to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Indiana Pacers 111-106 in overtime on Monday night.

James only scored seven points after halftime, but it was enough to give the Cavaliers their fifth straight win under new coach Tyronn Lue—and their first win in Indy in six years.

George Hill matched his season-high with 23 points, while Myles Turner had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana.

The Pacers controlled most of the second half, but James' layup with 1:16 left in regulation gave Cleveland a 94-93 lead.

Then, with the game tied at 96 and the shot clock off, Indiana's Monta Ellis nearly dribbled out the clock before missing a midrange jumper at the buzzer.

Irving's 13-footer with 3:01 left gave the Cavs a 103-100 lead and they never trailed again.

Grizzlies 110, Pelicans 95

In New Orleans, Zach Randolph had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Memphis beat New Orleans for its 10th victory in 12 games.

Jeff Green scored 24 points for Memphis, and Vince Carter added 13, including a pair of back-breaking 3s in the last three minutes.

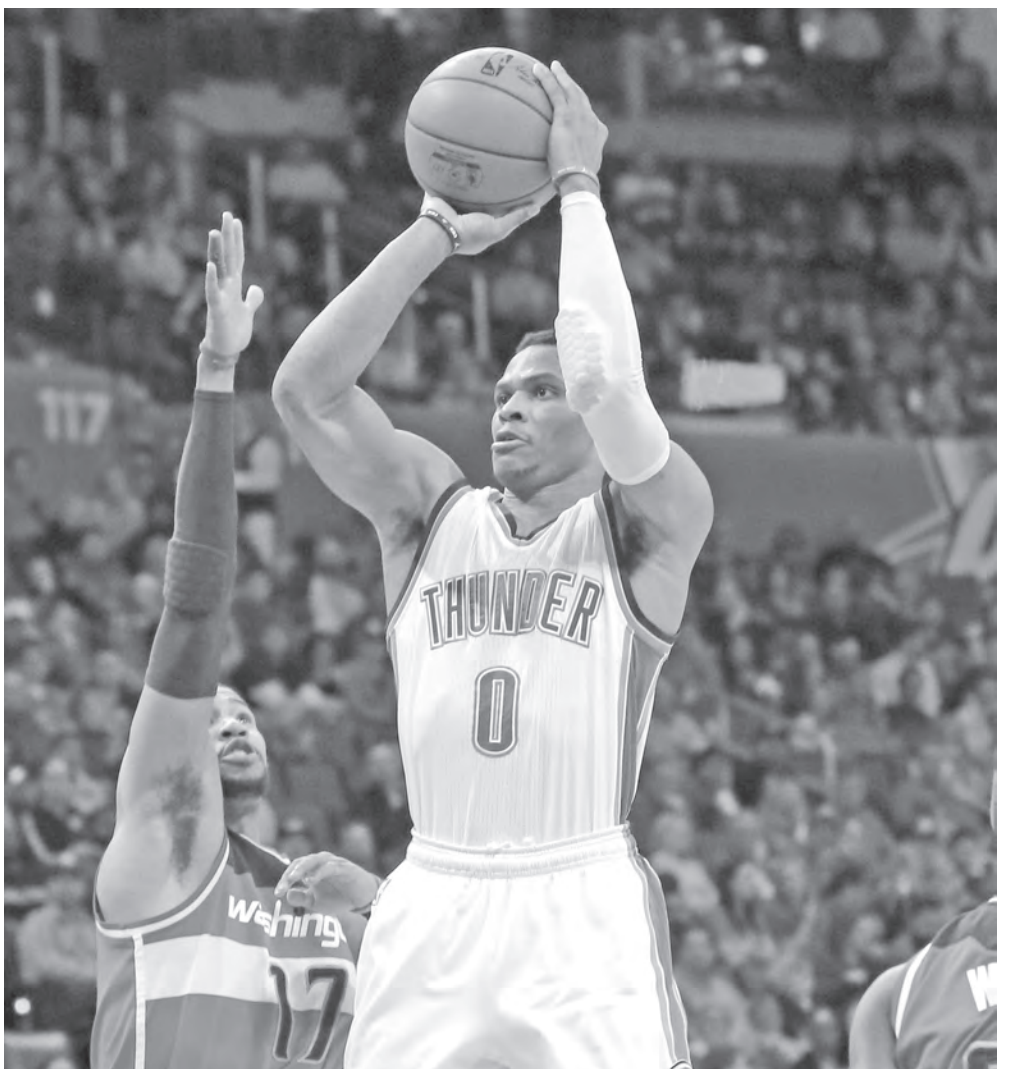
Anthony Davis had 23 points and nine rebounds for the Pelicans, who lost for just the third time in 10 games, with two of those losses coming against Memphis.

New Orleans led 86-84 after Ryan Anderson's free throw with 7:02 left, but the Grizzlies responded with a pivotal 10-0 run to take the lead for good, closing the game on a 26-9 run.

Spurs 107, Magic 92

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 28 points and San Antonio beat Orlando to remain undefeated at home.

Aldridge shot 9 for 13 from the field in leading San Antonio to its 26th straight home victory to open the season. Patty Mills matched a season-high with 22 points, going 3 for 4 on 3-pointers.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots as Washington Wizards guard Garrett Temple (17) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Monday, Feb. 1, 2016. Oklahoma City won, 114 -98.

San Antonio found its defensive footing late in the third quarter, using a steal by Mills and blocks by Kawhi Leonard to separate from Orlando. The Spurs outscored the Magic 24-8 to overcome a 70-69 deficit with 1 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter.

Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Victor Oladipo added 19 points and Aaron Gordon had 12 points and 16 rebounds

Nuggets 112, Raptors 93

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 14 rebounds, and Denver ended Toronto's 11-game winning streak.

Jokic's totals were season highs for the rookie. He had 23 points and 12 rebounds against San Antonio on Nov. 28.

Will Barton scored 20 points and Randy Foye had 16 for the Nuggets, who swept the season series. They won in Toronto on Dec. 3 to stop an eight-game losing streak.

The Raptors entered with the NBA's longest current winning streak but couldn't duplicate the success they had in January. They led by one midway through the second quarter but trailed by double digits for most of the second half.

DeMar DeRozan led Toronto with 24 points. His All-Star backcourt mate, Kyle Lowry, scored just nine and went 1 for 6 from the foul line.

Jazz 105, Bulls 96, OT

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward had 27 points and 12 rebounds, Rodney Hood added 19 points and Utah beat Chicago.

Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 12 rebounds to help Utah win its third straight.

Jimmy Butler scored 26 points and Pau Gasol added 19 points and eight rebounds to lead Chicago. Derrick Rose chipped in 14 for the Bulls, who lost for the third time in four games.

Chicago and Utah traded baskets throughout the fourth quarter. Rose's 3-pointer with 18.5 seconds left put Chicago ahead 93-90.

Hayward made 1 of 2 free throws, but the Jazz grabbed the rebound and Hayward drove for the tying layup with 4.8 seconds left in regulation.

In the extra period, Hayward made back-to-back pull-up jumpers and followed with a dunk to give Utah the lead for good at 102-95 with 59.9 seconds remaining.

Kings 111, Bucks 104

In Sacramento, Rudy Gay had 32 points, nine rebounds and six assists and Sacramento snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Milwaukee.

Sacramento won minus All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins, who sprained his left ankle in Saturday's loss at Memphis. The Kings are 2-7 this season without Cousins, with both wins coming against the Bucks.

The Kings took the lead for good early in the final period on two free throws by Marco Belinelli, who scored 10 points in the fourth quarter. Gay had nine as Sacramento outscored Milwaukee 37-30.

Greg Monroe had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks, who have dropped three straight and five of six. Michael Carter-Williams had 18 points and a season-high 13 assists.

Hawks 112, Mavericks 97

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague scored a season-high 32 points, Kyle Korver added 16 points and Atlanta beat Dallas to snap a three-game skid.

Teague went 12 for 15 from the field with a career-high five 3-pointers, and reserve guard Dennis Schroder finished with 14 points. Atlanta entered the game having lost five of six to drop to fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Deron Williams, coming off a 27-point performance in Dallas' home win Sunday over Phoenix, left the game early in the second quarter with a bruised hip.

Chandler Parsons had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 points for the Mavericks.

Pistons 105, Nets 100

In New York, Andre Drummond had 21 points and 18 rebounds, Reggie Jackson scored 19 points and Detroit beat Brooklyn.

Drummond fell just shy of an NBA-high sixth 20-point, 20-rebound game of the season but delivered the tiebreaking basket on a dunk with 1:30 remaining. Jackson added a couple of clutch baskets as the Pistons avoided a third straight loss.

They had fallen to Cleveland and Toronto, the East's top two teams, but were just good enough to get by the Nets, one of the worst.

Brook Lopez scored 27 points for the Nets, who have lost four in a row. Andrea Bargnani added 18 points off the bench.

SIDEBAR

Reeling Phoenix Suns fire coach Jeff Hornacek

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns, mired in one of the worst stretches in their history, have fired coach Jeff Hornacek and promoted Earl Watson to interim coach.

Watson was selected after interviews were conducted Monday with all three Suns assistants.

Watson was an NBA point guard for 13 seasons and was in his first season as a Suns assistant after a year as an assistant coach of the Austin Spurs of the NBA Development League.

The 36-year-old Watson retired as a player in 2014 after appearing in 878 games for Portland, Seattle/Oklahoma City, Memphis, Denver, Indiana and Utah.

The Suns' season has been swirling rapidly down the drain for weeks and Hornacek must have known his days as coach were numbered.

The Suns finally fired him after the team ran its road losing streak to 14 games with a loss at Dallas on Sunday night.

The team issued a brief news release Monday morning announcing Hornacek's dismissal after 2 ½ seasons on the job. General manager Ryan McDonough and Watson are scheduled to talk to reporters about the changes at the Tuesday morning shootaround in advance of the game against Toronto.

Since the Suns fired Hornacek's top two assistants - Jerry Sichting and Mike Longabardi—a month ago, there were only three assistants remaining on the Phoenix payroll—Watson, Corey Gaines and Nate Bjorkgren.

Watson inherits something of a mess of a roster and trades are a certainty by the Feb. 18 deadline.

To say defense has been a problem is an understatement.

Phoenix ranks last in the NBA in opponent's field goal percentage, next-to-last in opponent's 3-point percentage and last in opponent steals.

No wonder the Suns are mired in one of the worst stretches in history. The team has lost 10 of 11 games and 19 of its last 21. At 14-35, Phoenix's record is tied for fourth worst in the NBA and the Suns are headed for a franchise-record sixth consecutive season without making the playoffs, all under owner Robert Sarver.

Phoenix plays its next five games, and nine of its next 10, at home.

Panthers, Broncos meet reporters at media circus

AP
Denver Broncos' Peyton Manning answers a question during Opening Night for the NFL Super Bowl 50 football game Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, in San Jose, Calif.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—What happens when you put Peyton Manning, Miss Universe, an orange-and-blue leprechaun and 200 TV cameras into the same room?

Answer: Super Bowl Opening Night.

The NFL took a good idea gone surreal -- what used to be known as "Media Day" -- gave it a new name, added a live cover band and moved the whole thing to prime time Monday to kick off Super Bowl week between the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers.

This new and amped-up interview-fest came complete with a guy walking around inside an inflatable football and a newly choreographed players' introduction that involved all 60 players from each team walking out onto a four-story-high catwalk.

"I had no idea that was a bridge we were standing on," said Manning, getting ready for his fourth Super Bowl.

And yet, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

"Will you kiss my wife?" one questioner shouted to Panthers QB Cam Newton, who answered his hour's worth of questions with a sports-drink-themed towel wrapped around his head.

"I don't think I can do that," Newton said.

Suffice to say, Manning and Newton—one a five-time MVP, the other a strong favorite to win his first later this week—couldn't have seen a lot of this coming, no matter how hard they prepared.

Who would play you in a movie? "Maybe a young Robert Redford," Manning said.

Another reporter— or make that, person with a credential—asked Manning to look into the camera and wish a Happy Chinese New Year to all his friends in that part of the world.

At one point, a reporter from a Spanish-language station cranked up some bass-heavy music and pleaded with Newton to dance.

He passed. "Got to be feeling it," he explained.

All of this thoughtfully brought to prime time by the NFL for the first time in the 50-year history of the Super Bowl.

For decades, Media Day was a Tuesday-at-noonish affair—scheduled so as not to interrupt the teams' schedules and to give writers the rest of the week to craft the stories.

But this year, the NFL moved it to Monday night, where minor details like dress code, off-color banter and 8-year-olds asking football players questions after bedtime barely raise an eyebrow.

NFL spokesman Michael Signora described the scheduling change as one that allows "more fans (to) experience what has grown to become a very unique, popular Super Bowl event."

Conveniently, the NFL-owned NFL Network captured all the action live.

Surprising they didn't do this earlier. It's a nod to the reality that "Media Day" has long been a "journalism-free zone"—one in which fans have willingly, for the last five years, paid money for tickets that allow them to sit in the stands and watch the madness unfold.

Speaking of which ...

Late in the Broncos session, Rocky the Leprechaun—a regular at Broncos games over the years— laid a dollar bill out on the blue carpeting of SAP Center and waited to see if someone would pick it up. Several minutes passed. Nobody did.

"Crazy to see that," he said.

What makes this week so great?

"There's a lot of happiness," said the gnome-turned-sociologist. "This world needs all the happiness it can get."

Only one team will be happy come Sunday night. The Panthers are favored. Manning is a sentimental favorite; at 39, many people expect he'll retire after this one.

That was one of the few actual news angles being worked on during Denver's hour of fun behind the mic.

"I haven't made up my mind and I don't see myself knowing until the season's over," Manning said.

Also, the Broncos were involved in a minor bus crash after practice. There were no injuries. "Just adds to the intrigue of what we've had all year," Manning said.

Back to the important stuff.

Miss Universe, one of the 5,500 "reporters" with credentials for Super Bowl-week festivities, answered more questions than she asked. Most had to do with Steve Harvey. "Yes, I am the real Miss Universe," she said, referencing Harvey's embarrassing gaffe a few weeks back.

Harvey was a no-show at this one.

No one missed him.

From the costumes, to the beauty queens, to the guys dressed up like the Swedish Chef from the Muppets, this prime-time special had pretty much everything -- except for Donald Trump, who was waiting on caucus results in Iowa.

Manning was asked to recollect a meeting with Trump a few years back. Maybe someday, Newton will meet The Donald, too.

"I tell kids, that oval-shaped pigskin can take you a lot of places," said the Panthers quarterback, who won the national college championship with Auburn a few years back. "It's taken me to the White House."

And to this place. Kickoff is less than a week away.

Broncos' Elway won't rush Manning into decision about future

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—John Elway realizes as well as anyone just how difficult a decision it is for an elite quarterback to retire, and he has no plans of putting pressure on Peyton Manning to make up his mind right away.

Still, the Denver Broncos are going to do whatever they can to keep backup Brock Osweiler around, too, and not lose him in free agency.

"It's one that is going to change his life, whether it be this year, next year or the year after." Elway, the franchise's general manager and vice president said from his seat in the stands at Monday's Super Bowl media night. "It's always a hard decision. We'll give him plenty of time. ... Bottom line is Peyton's going to make the best decision for him."

Elway said that no matter what Manning decides, Osweiler is in the plans going forward. He started seven games this season for the AFC champions as Manning struggled while dealing with a foot injury, passing for 1,967 yards and 10 touchdowns with an 86.4 quarterback rating.

"We're hoping to get something done with Brock this offseason," Elway said. "Obviously Brock is a guy that came in and played very well for us this year. We wouldn't be here without him. We needed both quarterbacks. We wouldn't be here without both of them."

Deciding between two talented quarterbacks is a great problem to have.

Manning didn't offer any hints Monday night.

"I haven't made my mind up and I don't see myself knowing that until after the season's over," the five-time MVP said.

Even Elway struggled to make the final call to walk away for good -- yet he won't begin to compare the circumstances of his own farewell to Manning's situation at this stage.

Elway went out a Super Bowl winner and Super Bowl MVP after the 1998 season with a win against Atlanta, but still ran his retirement thoughts by his father as a sounding board. Elway said "it was very nice to have" the positive memories of going out on top.

"I was 95 percent there, but then it still took me a long time to get that last 5 percent, because it's a big decision and something that you've done your whole life and now you're not going to be able to do it anymore," Elway said. "Whether it's 80 percent of 95 percent, whatever that last step is—however big it is—is always really hard."

Panthers linebacker Davis returns to practice

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)--Carolina Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis returned to practice on Monday with no limitations.

Davis broke his arm in the NFC championship game but says he expects to play in the Super Bowl.

Davis says "it feels great" and he's glad to be back on the field with his teammates.

Davis knows all about pain and toughness.

So excuse the Panthers All-Pro linebacker if he snickers at the notion that 12 screws and a plate in his broken right forearm is about to keep him from the biggest game of his career.

"I'm still looking forward to playing on Super Bowl Sunday," he says with a wide, knowing grin.

Davis has overcome too much, and at 32 come too far to even think about missing this one.

He is the first known NFL player to battle back and play after tearing the same ACL three times. It's even more remarkable considering he has returned to play at an All-Pro level after his third surgery in 2011.

Now, in a cruel piece of irony, the man who has waited 11 seasons to play in a Super Bowl breaks his arm in the NFC championship game, giving him only two weeks to recover. The injury came in the second quarter of a 49-15 victory over the Arizona Cardinals.

"I was devastated for him at the time," Carolina defensive tackle Dwan Edwards. "The guy has been through a lot and is the heart and soul of our team. He's our emotional leader, our playmaker on the field."

"Knowing Thomas, he is used to overcoming obstacles," safety Tre Boston said. "Hey, give me 12 screws and a plate in my arm and I'm not playing for a month. But nothing can hold back that guy."

"I'm no doubting Thomas," cracked coach Ron Rivera.

Davis' three knee injuries cut short his seasons in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Still, he is as fast as ever and seems to be getting better each season. He turned in perhaps his best season in 2015, with 105 tackles and career highs in sacks (5.5), forced fumbles (four) and interceptions (four).

And while he was going through hundreds upon hundreds of grueling leg raises, squats and stretches to rebuild his knee, Davis at times did contemplate retirement. But, mostly, those were fleeting thoughts. In the back of his mind was the Super Bowl.

"I never really look at it from a personal standpoint," he said. "It's great for this team to be in this position. We've worked so hard all season long to accomplish this goal and put ourselves in this position to possibly win the Super Bowl, so it's great to be in this position as a football team and I'm just happy to be a part of it."

Chelsea tries to keep streak versus Watford

WATFORD (AP)—The end of an era has truly and unmistakably begun at Chelsea.

With the shock of John Terry's announcement that this season will be his last at Stamford Bridge still resonating through all of England, the Blues attempt to further their resurgence Wednesday at Vicarage Road against a feisty Watford side who bolstered themselves before the transfer deadline.

Things appeared to be positive at Chelsea (7-7-9), who have quietly put together a nine-match unbeaten string (5-4-0) in all competitions since the departure of manager Jose Mourinho. Caretaker Guus Hiddink has again navigated the Blues to stability, though his fiercest test is yet to come with a two-legged Champions League tie versus French powerhouse Paris-St. Germain in the round of 16 later this month.

Currently 13th on 28 points and seven clear of the drop, the spectre of relegation appears to be less threatening given Chelsea's current form. And they are still in the running for the FA Cup, advancing to the round of 16 with a 5-1 thrashing of MK Dons that rewarded the Blues with a home date opposite Manchester City in three weeks' time.

But the joys of that road victory quickly gave way to shock as Terry went public after the match with his knowledge Chelsea would not be renewing his contract, all but ending his time with the only club he has known since entering their academy at 14.

"I was in last week before the Arsenal game and it is not going to be extended," he said. "It's not going to be a fairytale ending, I'm not going to retire at Chelsea.

"Ideally I would have loved to stay, but the club's moving in a different direction. I needed to know now, like I have done every January, and sometimes it takes a couple of months to get done. Unfortunately, it was a 'no.'"

While there is no denying the 35-year-old Terry has shown some lapses in form and occasionally been a half-step slow as age does to a player, the central defender is revered like no other among the fan faithful -- one need not look further than his title of "Captain, Leader, Legend."

But the revelation by Terry, regardless of the club's claim afterward they "would keep the channels of dialogue open," appears destined to further antagonise a fan base still rankled by the departure of Mourinho, given the success the "Special One" enjoyed at Stamford Bridge before his second marriage with the club crumbled in such rapid and breathtaking fashion.

AP

Milton Keynes Dons' Kyle McFadzean, left, competes for the ball with Chelsea's Diego Costa during the English FA Cup fourth round soccer match between Milton Keynes Dons and Chelsea at Stadium mk in Milton Keynes, England, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016.

Prior to their FA Cup victory, Chelsea extended their unbeaten streak in league play to seven matches (3-4-0) by once more vexing Arsenal, this time by a 1-0 count at the Emirates Stadium on Jan. 24. Diego Costa again played the role of villain and goal-scorer for the Blues, first helping to get Gunners defender Per Mertesacker dismissed for a foul in the 18th minute and then scoring five minutes later as Chelsea again held the upper hand in this London derby.

While drama swirls around Terry and the Blues, Watford (9-5-9) are looking to consolidate their mid-table status and progress closer to the 40-point mark most managers feel is a guarantee to top-flight safety.

Like Chelsea, the Hornets have progressed to the round of 16 in the FA Cup, securing a late 1-0 victory at Nottingham Forest on Saturday as star striker Odion Ighalo made the most of his 18-minute substitute appearance by scoring the winner in the 89th. Watford were also the beneficiary of a favourable draw to reach the quarterfinals as they will host a Leeds United side they defeated in three successive Championship matches by a 10-3 total over the past two seasons before making the jump for this campaign.

"I am happy with the players and I am happy for the fans, because we are through to the next round," manager Quique Sanchez Flores told Hornets Player HD. "The fans, of course, are dreaming with the idea to do something. Step-by-step, little-by-little, we are through to the next round but it is impossible to know what will happen, so we just try to be happy."

Flores' pragmatism and success following promotion has made Vicarage Road a surprisingly attractive destination, and the Hornets were aggressive buyers late in the transfer window. Midfielder Mario Suarez came from Fiorentina to reunite with Flores after playing for him at Atletico Madrid, and 23-year-old French midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure was signed from League 1 side Rennes.

"I think it's important for me that he knows me and I know him," Suarez said. "I am really excited, I want to start working to know all of my teammates and to start playing for Quique, for the Watford fans and for the club.

"Everybody can see that last year they were in the second division, they came to the Premier League this year and they are in 10th position, and they can still go up."

BLUE

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a week from Tuesday to Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The group started its training sessions at the Oleai pitch before moving to Hopwood Junior High School Field this week. Angeles said they may have to add one more training day if they will continue to practice at the Hopwood pitch.

"The players are doing OK at the training session, but of course there's a lot of work to be done and we have to catch up faster since the EAFF tournament will be held in June or July this year," said Angeles, who is assisting head coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi in training the pool.

Angeles said the pool is up for a tough fight against Aries FC, which plays in top level college leagues and is scouted by professional teams.

After its game against Aries FC, which will touch down on Saipan this Thursday, the Blue Ayuyus will challenge Japan Soccer College and a champion team from Mainichi. Japan Soccer College, which lost to the CNMI U18 National Team last year, 2-1, will arrive on Feb. 15 and will play against the Blue Ayuyus on Feb. 17. The arrival and playing dates of the third Japanese team will be announced later.

GMJ/IKKI

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move closer, but Ong and Cruz muffed their 3-point attempts, while Brady Hammond and Quan faltered on point-blanked shots in the ensuing plays. Quan's last miss came with less than 30 seconds left on the clock and GMJ/IKKI was ahead by 5 after a pair of free throws from Chris Esteves, 65-60. Quan had a steal and went straight to the basket, but overshot his mark, while Brady failed to control the offensive board and lost the ball to the baseline.

GMJ/IKKI regained possession and did a good job moving away from Ask Y U B defenders, who were desperate to give up a foul to stop the clock. Chariton finally held down Marlon Angeles, but only 3.2 seconds were left on the clock. Angeles missed both charities, leaving the scores unchanged, as neither team was able to nail a basket in the closing seconds.

Elgene Mangali top-scored for GMJ/IKKI with his 12 points, while eight of his teammates contributed at least 4 points each. Cruz paced Ask Y U B with his 18 markers, while Ong chipped in 17. Only five players made it to Ask Y U B's box scores.

Meanwhile, the date of the GMJ/IKKI-PIC semis duel will be announced later. PIC barged into the semis after downing east division champion Islander. A GMJ/IKKI win will set up the team's rematch against Blue Haus, which lost to the former in the west division finals early last month.

GMJ/IKKI 65—Mangali 12, Dizon 8, Borja 8, Barrios 6, Esteves 6, Villacrusis 5, Oyola 5, Ferrer 4, Camacho 4, Sison 3, Litulumar 2, Cortez 2.

Ask Y U 60—Cruz 18, Ong 17, Quan 14, Camacho 6, Chariton 5.

Scoring by quarters: 15-5, 32-29, 54-44, 65-60.

THEA

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Seminole will also host Minor and company on April 1 and 2 for the SSC Trojan Dual Match Classic, but the Broncos' foes have yet to be determined, while on April 8, they will duel Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. On April 9, New Mexico will have two games, with the first one against Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona, and the second versus Glendale Community College in Glendale, Arizona.

Minor will see action in one more tournament on April 16 and 17 in Plano Texas before the regionals, which will be hosted by Collin College on April 22 and 23. After the regionals, the Broncos will square off against University of Southeast on May 2 in Hobbs, New Mexico.

If the Broncos make the grade in the regionals and advance to the nationals, they will head to Murphy Tennis Center in Tyler, Texas for the NJCAA D1 Championship that will take place from May 7 to 13.

"I don't really have a specific tournament I would want to win. Every match is important and I will try to win as many as I can. I would definitely want to do well in regionals and nationals," Minor said.

The Saipan Southern High School graduate made it to the nationals of both the spring and fall seasons last year. Minor and Banimataku were ranked No. 10 in the doubles in their division and the former finished at No. 26 in the singles last fall season, a big leap from her No. 43 ranking in the spring season last year.

Minor has rejoined the Broncos' training sessions early last month after spending the yuletide season in Europe and is working doubly hard on her service game to prepare for the upcoming tournaments.

"We are doing more match plays and physical training and my serve is one of the things I have been trying to improve on because it is one of the most important things you need to win a match," the 20-year old athlete said.

2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament Boys Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Nak Nakashima, second right, goes up for putback against the Sonics' Djay Ong, second left, and Emerson Feria, right, during the fourth quarter of their title game in the boys U19 division of the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Sonics and Ol'Aces players get ready for the rebound play.

The Sonics' Jeff Castro, right, unloads a fastbreak shot against the Ol'Aces' Aiferson Atan.

The Ol'Aces' Irvin Olopai pulls up for a tear-drop against the Sonics' Jester Kintaro.

The Sonics' Djay Ong is fouled by the Ol'Aces' Aiferson Atan on his way to the basket.

The Sonics' Emerson Feria tries to muscle his way against the defense of the Ol'Aces' Nak Nakashima, right, while Irvin Olopai, left, gets ready for help defense.

The Ol'Aces' Aiferson Atan attempts a double-pump against the Sonics' Michael Espinosa.

The Sonics' Jun Javier, left, challenges the baseline jumper of the Ol'Aces' Nak Nakashima.

The Sonics' Djay Ong and the Ol'Aces' Oscar Stefano battle for the rebound, while their teammates look on.

Westbrook's triple-double leads Thunder past Wizards

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GMJ/IKKI advances to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

GMJ/IKKI Wholesale is a win away from another finals appearance in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League following a 65-60 victory against Ask Y U B in their playoff match last night at the San Antonio court.

The win moved GMJ/IKKI to the semifinals where it will face Pacific Islands Club. The victor in the GMJ/IKKI-PIC semis tiff will then challenge Blue Haus for the overall championship.

GMJ/IKKI suited up for the knockout match with a complete 12-man lineup and drew contributions from all of their players to eliminate the slow-starting and depleted Ask Y U B, which played without Alex Standish, Josh Sablan, Marvin Rabauliman, and Don Brennan.

With Ask Y U B missing some key players and showing some rust for taking a break for more than two weeks, it fell behind by double-digits after the first period. Ask Y U B scored only 5 points in the first 10 minutes of play, while GMJ/IKKI ran a better offense, drilling 15 with five different players scoring for the eventual winners. Ask Y U B was held to one field goal in the opening canto, courtesy of Jethro Cruz's basket, while Djay Ong, Sidney Quan, and Keoni Chariton added one free throw apiece.

Ask Y U B picked up its scoring in the second canto behind Cruz and Quan, but GMJ/IKKI kept the driver's seat at the break, 32-29, thanks again to its balance offense. Six players hit the board for GMJ/IKKI in the second canto.

GMJ/IKKI continued to spread the wealth at the start of the second half to bring the lead back to 10, 54-44, entering the fourth period.

In the final canto, Ask Y U B managed to make a little headway with Cruz finally connecting from downtown. He knocked in three straight triples, while Chariton gave Ask Y U B its fourth consecutive trey in the final canto to cut the deficit to 5, 58-63, going into the final two minutes of the match.

Ask Y U B then had a chance to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
GMJ/IKKI Wholesale's Elgene Mangali, left, fakes off the defense of Ask Y U B's Brady Hammond, right, and Keoni Chariton, partly hidden, during the closing minutes of their playoff game in the San Antonio caging last night at the San Antonio court.

Blue Ayuyus to face 3 Japanese squads

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

The CNMI Men's National Training Pool will be playing against three Japanese teams this month to prepare for the East Asian Football Federation East Asian Cup 2016 Preliminary Round 1.

First up for the Blue Ayuyus is the Aries Football Club, which handed the CNMI U18 National Team a 5-0 beating during the Tokyo-based team's last visit here in February 2015. Aries FC will test the Blue Ayuyus mettle this Saturday at 4pm at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with the visiting team expected to see familiar faces, as some of the players they beat last year are now part of the Blue Ayuyus' training pool.

Assistant coach Jersh Angeles said there are over 30 players in the pool and they are mostly young ones with the youngest at 15. He added that only 20 (excluding 2 reserves) players from the group will be chosen to play against Aries FC and selection will be based on their performance in the training sessions.

The pool is training four times

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Joel Fruit tries to hold down Aries FC's Kenji Tamaki during the second half of their friendly game in February last year at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE
Thea Minor will play her last season with New Mexico Military Institute this spring before moving up to NCAA Division II school Henderson State University.

Thea aims for strong finish

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI top junior tennis player Thea Minor wants to go out with a bang as she plays her final season with the New Mexico Military Institute in the Division 1 of the National Junior College Athletics Association.

"I wish that my team will be in the Top 5 in the nationals. That will be a great accomplishment in my last season with the Broncos as the team have never been ranked that high," said Minor, who will suit up for New Mexico for the last time this spring season as she will be moving up to NCAA Division II next school year after getting a full scholarship from Henderson State University.

Minor and the Broncos will begin their campaign for the spring season on Feb. 12 via the Collin College Super Six at Plano, Texas. The tournament will be played for two weekends with the second week schedule for Feb. 19 and 20.

Next month, Minor will be participating in three tournaments, including the one against her next team. She and teammates Lorraine Banimataku of Vanuatu, Amanda Hawkins of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Lorish Puluspene of Papua New Guinea will compete in the West Texas Shootout that will run from March 9 to 13 in Abilence, Texas.

Then on March 27, Minor will collide with her future teammates at Henderson in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, while on March 31, the Dan O'Connell-coached Broncos will visit Seminole, Oklahoma to challenge Seminole Challenge.

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